

Ladies' Memorial

Association

OF

Montgomery, Alabama

1860-1870

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THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT, MONTGOMERY, ALA.

The
Ladies' Memorial Association
of Montgomery Alabama



Its Origin and Organization

1860-1870



Compiled by
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Montgomery, Ala.



MONTGOMERY
ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY



Preface

"Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

At a meeting of the "Ladies' Memorial Association of Montgomery, Ala.," some ten or twelve years since, there was quite a discussion as to what members would be entitled to wear an Association badge. The President thought "only those 'up' with their dues," and an unhappy incident occurred, offending a good, enthusiastic, earnest member, by the Secretary telling her she was not entitled to "a vote," as her dues were not paid. Mrs. Mary Phelan Watt, my sister, felt this very keenly, and with probably more emphasis than parliamentary decorum, said: "Madam, hearts and hands are more worth in a memorial association than fifty cents. I have a right to speak, as I am a charter member of this organization, and my mother one of the originators and founders of it." To this latter statement Mrs. M. D. Bibb, the President, from the chair made violent protest, saying "her mother, Mrs. B. S. Bibb, was the sole originator and founder of the Association."

Our family were grieved and astounded at such a claim, but as it was only a statement that perished with the breath that uttered it, decided to let it pass, feeling that we could trust to its contradiction in the record of the times. But, when upon a more recent occasion a history was prepared under Mrs. M. D. Bibb's direction for the World's Fair, at Chicago; later still, one pre-

pared under the same direction, entitled, "The Monument on Capitol Hill," and claiming to be authorized by the Ladies' Memorial Association, making practically these same claims, I felt that the truth of history should be gathered and put in form.

Readers of the last named pamphlet will notice the error in time in the effort to reconcile the General Swayne incident, making the 16th of April, 1866, coincide with three weeks after the surrender. I know little of General Swayne, but I am glad I have lived long enough to feel that there were brave and chivalrous gentlemen among the officers and privates of the Federal army, and he may have been one of them, but he was at that time still a partisan with no patience with any movement to revere the memory or build monuments to Confederate soldiers, and it is preposterous to give him credit for the foundation of the noble shaft which stands on Capitol Hill.

They will, too, note the unjust impeachment of the good, great, and patriotic Mrs. B. S. Bibb in the statement that "during the war she often talked of her plans, when the war was ended, for the formation of an association for the careful burial of Alabama Confederate soldiers," etc., etc. Those familiar with those times know, as I do, that no patriot, such as she, expected the Confederate soldiers' remains to be cared for by private associations, but felt that they would have the strong and loving arms of a free Government thrown around them. Mrs. Bibb needs no such claim to forever enshrine her memory in the hearts of all men and women who live, and will live to love and honor the memory of the Confederate soldier. Selected as the President of the Memorial Association because of maturer years and tried executive ability, blessed with a long life—much longer

than any of the women of its early days—she did as much, probably more, than any man or woman who lived to accomplish the success it achieved.

Thomas, Watkins, John and Ellis Phelan, when the Confederacy needed soldiers, were found on the firing line, or leading it in command. Was it strange that, when an association was to be formed to gather their bones from the battlefields, their mother should likewise be at the head of the column? I leave the recital of the facts of those times to answer.

SIDNEY HARRIS PHELAN.

Fore-word

In compiling the History of the Origin and Organization of the Ladies' Memorial Association, I have not been unmindful of the great responsibility of the engaging task which I assumed. That all writing of history should be undertaken as a sacred trust is a truth whose seriousness has been with me through the many hours and days of search for the facts as they are, facts which no one would question, and at whose presentation no one would cavil.

No important fact has been chronicled without going to the prime sources for the first and best proof, and no pains has been spared to verify the memory of those who are living by a resort to written or printed records. Where no record was made, and memory was the only

resource, statements based on any single recollection have been omitted, only those being given a place where several trustworthy individuals concurred in vouching for the same fact. That some minor mistakes will be found is to be expected; I can only hope they may not be so serious as to mar the work as a whole.

It was the earnest wish of the compiler to make mention in condensed form of all who took a prominent part in the formation of the Association. In some instances this could not be done to the satisfaction of the writer, because promised data, through the carelessness or forgetfulness of friends did not come in time.

No attempt has been made to give the history of the Association through all its eventful and useful years, the scope of the work embracing only its origin, organization and early achievements. To mention all who have taken part gloriously in the Association's noble work since those first heroic years, would extend the volume far beyond the limit that was set.

The study of these old annals has been to me a melancholy pleasure. It has brought me face to face and heart to heart with many noble men and women whose unselfish and untiring patriotism, fortitude and courage throughout those gloomy times has not been excelled in all the history of the world.

MARIELOU ARMSTRONG CORY.

Montgomery, April, 1902.

The Ladies' Memorial Association

of Montgomery Alabama

A Full Account of its Origin and Organization

In no period of time has the patriotic sentiment of the people been so enlisted in the preservation of their historic annals. Alabama has been slower in awakening to this beautiful labor of state love than many of her sisters, but her progress now bids fair to grow into the old-time Confederate Quick-step.

Few states of the South are richer in their early history than Alabama. From the Alabama Historical Society,* formed in Tuskaloosa, in 1850, has at last been evolved this new impetus to the State's historical movement, and the future historian of Alabama will find the State Department of Archives and History,†

*The General Assembly of 1851-52 passed an act incorporating the Alabama Historical Society. This was approved February 5, 1852.

†The General Assembly of Alabama, by act approved December 10th, 1898, provided for the appointment of an Alabama History Commission of five members. Its creation grew out of an enlightened public sentiment, and also a conviction on the part of the law makers that there should be some legislative action towards fostering historic interest and the preservation of the records, archives and history of the State. Under the authority conferred by the Act, the undersigned have been appointed as members by his Excellency, Gov. Joseph F. Johnston, President of the Alabama Historical Society. (Report of

formed by the Legislature of 1898-99, of inestimable value in shortening his labors of research and supplying the materials ready gathered and stored away.

The most reliable sources of information on all historical subjects where the official records of State are wanting are the files of the daily papers. For this present summary of past events the writer has had recourse to all these precious records now accessible, though sometimes necessarily accepting the recollection of persons taking part in the events of those wonderful years. The newspaper files have been given the preference over personal recollections and personal letters, which differ more widely and are by all historians deemed the less trustworthy testimony. The old files of the *Montgomery Advertiser* and the *Daily Mail* of 1865-66 have been systematically studied and copied. Many volumes of the *Advertiser* prior to July, 1865, are missing, owing to the loss by fire of some of these most historic and valuable treasures during the vandalism of Federal soldiers in April and May, 1865.*

All numbers since July, 1865, are well preserved. At

Alabama History Commission 1900, edited by Thos. M. Owen.) The undersigned were Thos. M. Owen, Chairman; W. S. Wyman, S. W. John, Peter J. Hamilton, Chas. C. Thach.

*It was thought by some that the missing files of the *Advertiser* were taken, with other Alabama archives, to Augusta, Ga., and there lost or confiscated. It will be remembered that on the approach of General James H. Wilson, with Federal troops, there was some alarm felt for Montgomery archives and the State officials sent some of them away to Eufaula, Ala., and Augusta, Ga., for preservation. Major W. W. Screws, however, prefers to believe the statement of Mr. S. G. Reid, then proprietor of *The Advertiser*, who affirmed that the lost files were burned in the streets of Montgomery by Federal soldiers. This act of depredation was not by any command of Federal officers, but through Federal vandalism. Official notice, however, that *The Advertiser* should cease publication was at that time posted on its doors.

that time Major W. W. Screws, with the honors of battle fresh upon him, laid down his sword and took up his pen—assuming command of letters in lieu of men.* Sufficient numbers of *The Advertiser* have been obtained and studied to corroborate all statements taken from the *Daily Mail*, the files of which, through the courtesy of its then able proprietor, Major J. Carr Gibson,† have been at the disposal of the writer. These papers—the *Montgomery Advertiser* and *Daily Mail*—teem with rich material for the history of those momentous times and should be carefully guarded and preserved.

Whatsoever the movement, whether political or social, whether of State or Church, or patriotic sentiment, each must take shape from antecedent as well as present environment. Public opinion is a great moulder, sometimes of character, yet oftener of great movements and historic epochs. For the exact origin of this historic association, then, it becomes necessary to look at *Montgomery* before the existence or the need of her Memorial Association and to study briefly the emotions and circumstance leading up to its sad necessity.

In 1860 no city in the world gave back a sunnier smile in answer to the greetings of prosperity than *Montgomery*. All went well. Her people were rich and growing richer. In the main, they looked back to

*The *Advertiser* at this time, July, 1865, was published and edited by Mr. S. G. Reid and Major W. W. Screws. In 1868 Major Screws bought the interest of Mr. Reid and became sole proprietor and editor.

†In 1865 Major J. Carr Gibson and Capt. John F. Whitfield were publishers and editors of *The Mail*. In January of 1866 it came out under the management of J. Carr Gibson & Co., the company being Captain John F. Whitfield and Colonel Joseph Hodgson.

a proud ancestry in the older States, and they were building here in Alabama another centre where the graces of social life, the culture of mind and the standards of character were perpetuating the best traditions of the old South. They were ambitious and they were successful. They furnished to the drawing rooms of two continents women whose beauty and intellect won recognition everywhere. They supplied the noblest minds and the loftiest purposes to the brilliant galaxy of men who then guided the State and country. They could boast of men who were equally at home in politics and society and business, for among them were great developers, builders of factories and railroads and commerce, as well as the subduers of the forests. The spirit of help, of charity was everywhere. Want was unknown, for to suspect its approach was to relieve it in advance. Happiest of all were the slaves, whose laughter-loving lives and easy days and devotion to the whites are a Paradise Lost to many of their luckless descendants.

Five years go by, five long revolutions of the earth, the first amid high hopes and brave resolves, the echoes of victory and the pride of triumph. Then specks appear on the sun, deepening to a shadow that grows into chaos and black night.

The broad streets are still here, the mansions stand stately as of old, the trees still house the birds and the flowers fling their same sweet perfumes on the air. Only the people are changed and many have not returned. How silent is many a hall, how numerous the vacant chairs! Where laughter had once its home, now sighs and anxious communings and tuneless songs have entered as unbidden guests. To wounded hearts was added wounded pride, and the insult of insolence gave

a deeper sting to untried poverty. Mirth and music had become as a story that is told.

This could not last. Manhood and womanhood were the same. Chastened to a deeper seriousness and a stouter purpose, one turned to the work of rescue, the other to that of comfort and unselfish helpfulness. Side by side and heart to heart the old chivalry and character and the old beauty and tenderness wrought a new life out of sorrow and made a brighter day to follow the darker night. But ever in sunshine and in shadow, in rest and work, in failure and in triumph, memory was busy in her treasure house. And the dearest jewel of them all was and is, the brave deeds of those who died and did not die in vain.



CHAPTER II.

During the war there were many societies among the ladies of Montgomery for the alleviation of suffering, among them being Ladies' Aid Societies, where the good women met and plied their needles for love's sweet sake. The President of one of the most prominent of these was Mrs. Eliza Clitherall Moore,* who with her able co-laborers worked night and day over the cutting tables, with sewing needles and knitting needles, making every needful thing for the soldiers in distant camps and battle fields. Under her supervision were even the bright faced school girls, who fled from books to this blessed work as a pastime more glorious than play.

Prominent among these was the "Ladies' Hebrew Sewing and Benevolent Society," with Mrs. J. C. Hausman† as President.

*Mrs. Eliza Inglis Moore was born in Charleston, S. C., June 2, 1803. Her father was Hon. George Campbell Clitherall, and her mother Caroline Elizabeth (Burgwyn) Clitherall, connected with the Pollocks and Devereauxs, distinguished families of South Carolina. She was the sister of Judge A. B. Clitherall, who, in 1861, was temporary Private Secretary to President Davis, and Assistant Secretary of the Congress. Mrs. Thos. Goode Jones, wife of Judge Thomas G. Jones, is the granddaughter of Mrs. Moore, and a daughter, Mrs. C. S. Bird, together with many other worthy descendants, still reside in Montgomery. Mrs. Eliza Clitherall Moore died on July 9, 1886. A more devoted Confederate never ministered to the wounded and dying. Never did she waver until

"The warrior's banner winged its flight
To greet the warrior's soul."

†Caroline J. Hausman was born in Saverne, France, on the 18th of August, 1832. Her parents, Alexander and Pauline Kulman (nee Wile) moved from Saverne to Paris when their children were still very young, in order to give them the benefit

Still another Aid Society was presided over by such spirits as Mrs. John A. Elmore, Mrs. William Yancey, Mrs. G. W. Petrie, Mrs. William Ray, Mrs. Rambo, Mrs. Bugbee, and others. While sewing for the absent soldiers was the principal occupation of these societies, other aid was constantly extended, as the following clipping gives evidence :

“PATRIOTIC WOMEN.

“Happening, yesterday afternoon, to be at the office of our kind friend, Major Harris, we found collected there a large number of paroled prisoners who were returning home from Northern prisons. The bare fact of seeing these war-scarred veterans returning home to freshen their spirits and bodies and

of a thorough education. As a very young girl she became interested in acts of benevolence and charity, which so markedly characterized her latter years. Her father, as president of a large congregation, and her mother associated with noble women for the alleviation of the unfortunate poor, were the models on which she planned her work. Her parents dreaded conscription for their only son, Emile, so the brave young girl, only 17, came with the boy to New York on a visit to her uncle. While there she met Mr. Jacques Hausman, of Montgomery, Ala. The following year they were married in Boston, Mass., at the home of relatives, where the young girl was visiting. They returned to Montgomery and until her death, July 12, 1901, this city was her home. Two years of this time was spent in France with relatives, to which country Mr. Hausman was sent as commissioner to the Paris Exposition. In 1861 she organized the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society, and was its first president, and co-operated with the Woman's Hospital. She was a charter member and in subsequent years one of the vice-presidents of the Memorial Association, and identified with all the charitable organizations of the city. The Woman's Home, of which she was president for fifteen years, was especially dear to her heart and her last visit was to that institution, where she always carried help and encouragement to the inmates.

to gird up anew their loins for another conflict with the enemy until our independence shall be fully achieved, would have given us the greatest pleasure, but this was increased and intensified beyond measure when we saw the generous cheer which had been furnished and served to them by our patriotic women. We give below the names of such as were most actively engaged in this most acceptable, appropriate and praiseworthy hospitality, in order that when the history of this war shall be written, they may be inscribed on the roll of fame:

"Mesdames W. B. Bell, Pickett, Banks, H. Bell, Col. Powell, Marks, Mathews, Holt, Browder, Woods, Freeman, McClure, and the Misses Hastings, May, Barney, Stringfellow, Lizzie Rutherford,* Sallie Rutherford and Bettie Bell, of the "Ladies' Aid Society."

Pending this time came the need for a place to tend the sick and wounded soldiers, who were now falling all too fast. For this purpose Mrs. Carnot Bellinger, wife of Dr. Carnot Bellinger, gave two cottages on what is now known as Bellinger Heights. The Cloverdale car runs hard by this cottage, now enlarged and still standing on the crest of the hill. By a singular coincidence, and all unknown to the ladies who selected it, this house was chosen by the Alabama Division U. D. C. as a Soldiers' Home, when in 1898 they had almost completed their plans for a refuge for needy old Confederates.†

*It is rather an interesting coincidence that this Miss Lizzie Rutherford is the same lovely woman who later, in Columbus, Ga., suggested the idea of Memorial Day, so beautifully embodied by her friend, Mrs. Williams, in that famous letter which resulted in the adoption throughout the South of our sacred 26th of April. A more extended notice of all these circumstances will be found later, in which Mississippi's claims to the origin of this custom also will be given.

†This plan for a Confederate Home was reluctantly abandoned by the Daughters of the Confederacy of Alabama on recommendation of prominent veterans, who deemed it inexpedient, thinking it best to send money direct to the needy veterans through the State Division.

The following account of the origin of the first Soldiers' Home is contributed, on request, by one of the good women who lent their young energies to this noble work. It has been corroborated by others who took part in that work, and is given in her own words:

"As requested, I send you some facts concerning the Soldiers' Home on Bellinger Heights, which was really the first in the Confederacy, and all others took their names from this one, which a wounded soldier gave it in writing to his mother. He said, 'Don't be anxious about me; I am not in a hospital, but at a Soldiers' Home.' This so pleased the ladies, who had been in a quandary about what name was good enough for it, that one of them seized a pen and opening a large Bible, wrote in it, 'Donated to the Soldiers' Home by ——' (I forget). 'Now,' she said, 'it is registered in the Bible and can't be changed.' Now, for its origin. Soon after war was declared the ladies of Montgomery, as did others throughout the Confederacy, formed themselves into a sewing society to make clothes, sand-bags, haversacks, cover canteens, knit socks of every hue, size and shape, as well as some very shapeless ones. Many an encouraging word was written and attached to these articles as they were folded and boxed for the dear boys in grey, and sometimes when defeat instead of victory perched upon our banner, did these sacred garments and mottoes fall into the hands of the 'boys in blue.' Many carpets were cut up, washed clean, as well as damask curtains, and fitted up as blankets and sent to our boys then sleeping on the cold, bare ground. This work of love continued for several months before a needy soldier was brought face to face with these true-hearted women. Dr. Samuel Norton, a kind-hearted physician of Montgomery, and at that time a minister of a Protestant Methodist Church

in this city, called on the ladies of the Sewing Society and asked what would they do with a wounded soldier? After a volley of who's and whens and whys, they became silent, not from want of hospitality but from want of a hospital. Many cried out, 'I will take care of him.' The Dr. replied, 'He is already taken care of, but we must begin in time to provide for the balance who will surely come. Now,' he said, 'I leave it with you, and I know on whom I depend.' It was the subject of discussion, earnest and heartfelt, and when they separated at noon, no conclusion had been reached. Dr. Bellinger asked his wife, as he met her on her return home: 'What has happened? Why are you so silent?' She told him of the quandary the ladies were in concerning a house or rooms for any sick or wounded soldiers, and that one case had been brought before them. Dr. Bellinger then offered a house and servants and provisions on the Hill, in a quiet, retired locality, in the midst of a large fruit orchard. This was unanimously and instantly accepted by the ladies that afternoon, though I cannot now recall the exact date. Now these ladies, as was most natural, unanimously elected Mrs. Bellinger* as their first President, on account of the

*Mrs. Sarah Bozier Bellinger, daughter of Robert Hails, and Sarah (Bozier) Hails, was born June 10th, 1808, in Columbia, S. C. Her father, Capt. Robert Hails, fought in the Revolutionary War, under Light Horse Harry Lee. She was married in 1832 to Dr. Carnot Bellinger, who, on account of French ancestry and inherited love of old France, was given the name of Carnot, in honor of the ancestor of the late President Carnot of France. In the good old ante-bellum days, when South Carolinians, for summer recreation, drove through the country in their stately 'coaches-and-four,' Mrs. Bellinger—then Miss Hails—while enjoying an outing with friends, stopped the night with strangers, whose doors were thus ever open to such travelers. A

Home having been supplied by her husband. It was but a short while before rooms were comfortably fitted up in a home-like manner and ready for use, with as lovely a Christian character as one ever meets as a matron, Mrs. Walton, a Scotch woman, small and delicate, apparently unfitted for so arduous a position, but brave, true-hearted and untiring. In addition to her numerous duties as matron she was always assuming that of kind-hearted, sympathetic nurse. Thus, overtaxing herself, she succumbed to typhoid fever and died. Her place could never be filled though many efforts were made, and the ladies had to form themselves into committees to do Mrs. Walton's work, with what they could furnish or hire, for in those days we knew not the name of *trained* nurse in the South. The names of the ladies who worked at this Home were many. Mrs. J. C. Hausman, a Hebrew lady, who only died a few months ago, was most prominent in good deeds and charities to the soldiers. Mrs. William Bell, who died long after the war, was very prominent in the good works. Mrs. James Ware, now living, was another, and was the second Manager of the Home. Mrs. John Elmore* was enthu-

courtly old gentleman, that night a guest at this same home, asked Miss Hails her father's name. "Capt. Robert Hails," she proudly replied. "Yes," said the old cavalier, "and I could have courtmartialled that same Captain." Then he told the daughter the story of how the impetuous young Captain, on first meeting the Tories, wanted the Colonel to charge immediately, and being refused each time, the young Captain replied: "Then, by the Lord, I shall charge myself." But never a soldier followed. The courtly old gentleman then introduced himself—(he chanced to be no less a personage than Light Horse Harry Lee himself)—and said that he would interpret the blush on the young daughter's face to be one of pride, for such it should be.

*Mrs. John A. Elmore was the daughter of Hon. William D. Martin, the famous South Carolina jurist, son of John Martin and Elizabeth (Terry) Martin. Her mother was Henrietta

siastic and constant, so also Mrs. William Knox, Mrs. William Pollard, Mrs. S. B. Bibb, Mrs. E. C. Hannon and Mrs. Mays, Mrs. William H. Smith, Mrs. Montgomery, the Taylors, and Mastins and Phillips, Mrs. William Yancey, Mrs. Eliza Moore, Mrs. John D. Phe-lan, and so many others."

When the cottage proved inadequate to the ever-increasing demand, the building on the corner of Bibb and Commerce streets was fitted up for the Woman's Hospital and the ladies of the Home took charge there. Here Mrs. B. S. Bibb, who afterwards won and wore the beloved name of "Aunt Sophie," was elected President of the Woman's Hospital Association, and many ladies who, on account of distance from the city, were deprived of going often to the Home, did faithful service at the hospital in the city. After moving into the city the Woman's Hospital came under the direct supervision of the Confederate Army Hospital Department.

Under the Confederate Army Hospital supervision were three hospitals in the heart of the city. The Ladies' Hospital was at the corner of Commerce and Bibb, now (1902) occupied by Clancey's Hotel and McDonald's Theatre, where Dr. Duncan was the surgeon in charge,

Williamson, daughter of Dr. Peter W. and Eliza (White) Williamson, of Randolph County, North Carolina. Her maternal grandfather, Dr. Peter W. Williamson, was a surgeon in the Revolutionary War, and her paternal grandfather, one of the seven Martin brothers of the Revolution. Miss Laura Martin married Capt. John A. Elmore, son of General John A. Elmore, who was a soldier in the Colonial struggle of 1776; while the Captain saw service during the Creek troubles of 1836. A long list of distinguished descendants of these still honor and grace the State of Alabama. The name of Mrs. Laura Elmore was synonymous with all deeds of charity, but especially did she serve this Home with untiring devotion. Mrs. Elmore was the third First Vice-President of the Ladies' Memorial Association.

Mrs. B. S. Bibb, President of the Association, and Mrs. William Bell, General Manager.

Among the daily faithful here was Mrs. Herron,* who knelt in prayer by the bedside of the wounded and dying, spoke the tender love of the pitying Christ, taught the poor quivering lips to say "Thy will be done," and heard in the place of "mother" that last sad time the soldier's "Now, I lay me down to sleep."

Here, indeed, worked faithfully and long as lovely a set of women as ever ministered to the victims of the cruel god of battle. Many of their names have already been mentioned, and though many may now escape the memories of men, yet are they recorded upon hearts that bled, and better still, in the Life Book of the God of Love.

Just across the way from Commerce to Coosa street, where are now the Merchants' Hotel, Standard Club, etc., was the general hospital, afterwards called St. Mary's, in honor of some devout Sisters of Charity who gave their time and gentle work to the soldiers there.

Here the surgeon in charge was Dr. Green, and one of the most prominent and zealous workers, Mrs. William Knox.†

*Mrs. Sarah Herron was the daughter of Robert Parker and Catherine (Thorington) Parker. Her mother was a sister of Capt. Jack Thorington, the able lawyer and associate of Judge William P. Chilton. She married Mr. John Herron, of Alabama, and has left the impress of a long, useful and beautiful life.

†Mrs. William Knox, Sr., was born in Nashville, Tenn., January 9, 1809. Her father was Col. Joseph Joel Lewis, and her mother was Miss Mariam Eastham. Her mother was a niece of Lord Fairfax, and her father an officer in the Revolutionary War. She married Mr. William Knox, in Winchester, Tenn., and later moved to Montgomery, Ala. Here they made their

It is interesting at this point to note that Mr. George F. McDonald, the genial manager of McDonald's Theatre, still adheres to the same spot where, in that stirring era, he worked in a different calling. He was then druggist of this hospital, while another brave Confederate soldier, Mr. W. W. Norris, was business manager—stewards they were called in those days.

Again, where is now Nachman & Meertief's store, once the famous Concert and Estelle Halls, on the corner of Perry street and Dexter avenue, was still another hospital, the surgeon being Dr. William Holt. Here also the ladies worked valiantly under the direct leadership of Mrs. Eliza Clitherall Moore. Thus, irrespective of sect or creed, of age or station, "sewing while they wept" and weeping while they softened the sorrows of others, these noble women of Montgomery wrought better than they knew and made names more enduring than marble—names that must not perish while there is history to tell.

Some of the letters received by the dear women from grateful soldiers whom they had nursed back to health

home in what is now the old Confederate White House, where many of their children were born. Among the notable women of Alabama Mrs. Knox has left a record unsurpassed for charity and deeds of mercy to all in distress or want, without regard to race, nationality or creed. During a term of thirty years Mrs. Knox taught a class in Sunday School for negroes, while she was a member of Court Street Methodist Church, this city. In her elegant home on Perry street, she entertained President Davis, Mr. Alexander Stevens, General Lee, Admiral Semmes and all the noted officers of the Confederate Army and Navy. Mrs. Knox gave two brave sons, William and Robert, to the Confederate Army. At the age of 82 years she died on the 14th of June, 1890, in the city of Montgomery. The first dollar that was ever put in the treasury of the Confederate States was the money to buy food and blankets for the soldiers. This money was borrowed from Mr. Knox, president of the Central Bank of Alabama, by H. D. Capers, and paid Mr. Capers in gold on the 26th of February, 1861. (Vide books of the bank).

and strength, are not only touching but valuable historically. Only a few have survived the vicissitudes of the years and are already yellowing with time stains. Extracts from these are given, as follows :

ATLANTA, GA., July 1, 1866.

MRS. W. B. BELL :

My Dear Mrs. Bell*—It would be impossible for me to express in adequate terms my sense of the debt of gratitude which I owe you for the care and attention with which you watched over me, and ministered to my sufferings whilst I was wounded, in your beautiful city. If I am never able to repay you for your unwearied devotion to me except by my thanks, I feel that you are more than repaid already by the consciousness of having done so much for the cause of our down-trodden and oppressed country, and also for the cause of suffering humanity.

I feel that I owe my life and what service I was afterwards enabled to render my country to the kind care and attention of yourself and the other noble ladies of Montgomery. So long as I may be permitted to live I will never forget you. Our cause is lost, our country is prostrate, but we can at least cherish the

*Mary Jarrett (Thweatt) Bell was born in Sparta, Ga., November 30, 1831. She was the daughter of Peterson Thweatt and Elizabeth Williamson Thweatt, whose sister, Mary Jarrett Williamson, was the mother of the illustrious John A. Campbell. Mrs. Bell's forebears, both paternal and maternal, are a heritage of which the most exacting dames, Colonial or Revolutionary, would be proud. Micajah Williamson, her grandfather, was a colonel in the Revolutionary War, and had a son fourteen years old shot down before his eyes by the enemy. In a stout leather-backed prayer book, yellowed with the usage of 108 years, and bearing the date MDCCXCIV (1794) in English script, were found the names of many noted ancestors. Mrs. Thweatt died when little Mary Jarrett was only four years old. Her aunt, Mrs. Charles Tait, wife of Judge Charles Tait, brought her to Claiborne, Ala. Here she lived until she married William Brown Bell, of Falmouth, Va., who, a few years before, had removed to Montgomery, Ala. The famed hospi-

memory of those who nobly fell in her defense, and honor those, whether male or female, who did their whole duty in the struggle. I was wounded a second time, but only slightly; was with Forest when he captured Murfreesboro, and in his subsequent operations in Tennessee and Kentucky. After Bragg's Kentucky campaign I was promoted to the command of a select company of Texans and placed immediately under the command of the lamented Gen'l. Polk for "secret and special service." My business was to operate in the rear and on the flanks of the Yankee army. Whilst in this service I had many thrilling adventures and hair-breadth escapes, and flatter myself that I did my country some service. After Gen'l. Polk was killed I served a part of the time on the staff, part in my old regiment of Texas Rangers. I was with my regiment in the battle of Bentonville, N. C., and the last one fought by the Western army. There was never a truer, braver or more patriotic body of men than the regiment which was brought out from Texas by the brave, the chivalric and martyred hero—Terry. Only a few of them lived to get back to Texas. Their bones lie bleaching on every battlefield from North Carolina to the Mississippi. I am proud of Texas, that noble state.

My youngest brother, who belonged to Hood's old regiment, the 4th Texas, was killed in the seven days fight around Richmond.

Please pardon me for the length of this letter. I had intended

talities of the Bells' spacious home and their acts of benevolence and charity began long before the war. In 1853, '54 and '55, during the dreadful scourge of yellow fever, they sent their children to the country and were angels of mercy to the stricken of Montgomery, nursing and alleviating suffering wherever found. During the war Mrs. Bell's sweet face and tender mother-hands brought comfort to many a dying and wounded soldier, for her willing feet walked ever beside the soldier's cot. Her oldest son, William Peterson Bell, was a brave Confederate soldier. Mrs. Bell not only gave of her time and her store to the hospital, but furnished it with one of her own servants. And when the dear cause was lost and the sick and wounded boys in gray were thrown into the hands of the Government, she continued to watch even closer than ever by their bedsides.

only to write you a few lines to show to you that your kindness to me when in distress is still cherished and remembered. Please give my love to those kind ladies who manifested so deep an interest in my welfare whilst I was wounded.

With deepest gratitude,

Yours truly,

MARCUS L. G.

Another letter, written twenty years later, is interesting not so much for historic value as for the delicate sentiment and sad story of love which it tells.

NOVEMBER 22, 1884.

MRS. M. J. BELL:

MY DEAR MADAM—I have never forgotten your kindness to me while sick at your house,* twenty years ago, and while the world has gone well with me, I, like yourself, have had many and sore trials. Still there is much for us to be thankful for, especially at this time, in a political way, and to the end that you may bear me in mind on Thursday next I send a mite. You will receive it in the same spirit in which it is sent, for was I not "one of your boys?" and surely there can be no impropriety in accepting from one's own. I send this through my friend, Col. Pollard, to insure its safe delivery, fearing I may not have the proper address.

I never see anything about my old nurse "Nancy."† Is she

*It was the custom to take the convalescent soldiers from the hospitals to the homes of the first families of Montgomery, where they were tenderly cared for until able to return to battle or home to their loved ones. No remuneration for these beautiful services would have been tolerated by these generous Southern aristocrats, and the doors of almost every home in the city and surrounding country were wide open to the convalescent soldier.

†Nancy, the nurse, and Mammy Judy, the cook, both deserve notice for their service to the soldiers. They were faithful slaves in the Bell home. Mammy Judy never saw a Confederate soldier that she didn't make him come in and "take a bite." "I'm gwine feed 'em all, honey, case ever time I feeds one, somebody else gwine feed Buddie." Buddie was the beloved son and young master, Wm. Peterson Bell, then in the

again with you? I am all alone in a large house, having no wife, no children. I was so unfortunate as to lose my wife two years ago—a pure, sweet and beautiful woman. Two years ago to-morrow we laid her away in our beautiful cemetery, there to await the resurrection morn. A beautiful statue marks the place. Besides her name and date are the following lines on the tablet:

“There’s not an hour of day or dreaming night,
But I am with thee;
There’s not a flower that sleeps beneath the moon
But tells some tale of thee.”

The past week has been one of mournful memories softened by time and I remember how true and kind she was, and then a troop of others flitted by, those from whom I had in the long past received so many acts of kindness, among them your dear remembered face, and having heard that you were not now situated so fortunately as in the days gone by, it occurred to me that you would like to hear from me, and that the assurance that your kindness had never been forgotten would be gratifying; hence this letter. Remember me kindly to the Holts, your co-workers.

Hoping you are well, and that a kind providence will always watch, guard and protect you, I remain, my dear Mrs. Bell,

Sincerely yours,

W. E. McC.

Alas, how the old letters bring us face to face with the sorrows of those dead days! How they tell us, with a simple eloquence more touching than any flights of fancy, all the good our glorious Southern women

army. Other faithful slaves whose names will ever be remembered by grateful soldiers were Jupiter, head cook, whose services were given by Mrs. Carnot Bellinger; Horace Edwards, a likely youth, services given the hospital by Mrs. W. B. Bell; Mary Ann, one of the faithful nurses, by Mrs. Charles T. Pollard; and Ellen, services given by Mrs. James A. Ware. The last named nurses were invaluable and their strong black arms lifted with faithful tenderness many a suffering soldier, giving sweet visions of the loving mammy watching by the firesides of home and mother far away.

wrought, and what a breath of tender chivalry they breathe of the soldiers the South gave to her dear cause!

It is matter of regret that more letters could not have been procured from others of those great-souled women who toiled within these hospital wards. Hoping that Mrs. Martha D. Bibb might possess some letters written by soldiers to her mother, Mrs. B. S. Bibb, every effort was made to obtain them for these pages. The forms of the printer were even held back with the hope that in the end they might be procured. The illness of Mrs. M. D. Bibb at this time (1902) prevented the search among her historic treasures for these letters. Although diligent quest through files of the "Veteran" for such letters was also unsuccessful, the following very interesting note from the pen of the able editor of that journal, Mr. S. A. Cunningham, was found, bearing loving testimony of one already mentioned, Mrs. Herron, whose name is linked with golden deeds to that busy time of the hospitals :

"The Veteran's tribute to the work of Montgomery women would be so incomplete without reference to the late Sarah Herron, that brief editorial mention is supplemented.

"It seems improbable that but for her the writer would have survived an illness during which he was carried from a railway train into the ladies' hospital utterly unconscious from raging fever. The presence of that gentle, intelligent Christian woman after several days reminded him of home and mother. There began that day the most beautiful friendly devotion the writer has ever experienced. Mrs. Herron's letters were such a treat that they were common property in the army, and at sight of the familiar handwriting, Company B, Forty-first Tennessee Regiment would assemble to hear the reading as soon as opened. Her letters were mellow with Christian counsel and rich with wit and humor. That "mother number two" was faithful until called home to heaven March 10, 1899. Her mind was ever clear toward mankind, and her relation to Omniscience was most intimate. It was well to have known her."

But when the war was ended and there was no more need for such service—when their own came home to tenderer hands or were left in unmarked graves—with their fortunes gone, their homes devastated, their noble husbands and sons no more—these women who during the time of need, knew neither fatigue nor hunger nor heart-break, now that the need was gone, they fell themselves by the wayside: weary, stunned! For not one but had believed the loved banner of the South would flaunt its bars and stars victorious forever from the old dome on Capitol Hill.

Thus it is with woman ever! No matter how dark the hour, if she see the need of her, there is no power under heaven to daunt. But take away that necessity, and the frail arms fall, the soft, white hands lie clasped and still. Call but one blast through the trumpet of need, and like the fine war horse of the cavalry story, she will rise though wounded, going swift to the battle. And thus it was, as we soon shall see, with the women of Montgomery.



CHAPTER III.

Now when the ashes of war had scarcely cooled, the men of our State, already bending under the burdens placed upon them, arose to the necessity of a new association. A few months after the war, on November 23, 1865, a number of gentlemen met informally at the State Capitol and agreed to form "The Historical and Monumental Association of Alabama.* At this conference organization was agreed upon and a committee appointed. Public notice of the meeting for permanent organization on November 24, was duly given. The Montgomery Advertiser of November 24 contains the following:

"HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

"A meeting was held at the Capitol on yesterday at 12 o'clock M., to take steps towards organizing a society to collect the facts relating to the part Alabama played in the late war and to erect

*The "Historical and Monumental Association" is confounded by many with the "Alabama Historical Society." As has been before shown, the Alabama Historical Society was formed in Tuscaloosa on July 8, 1850. To quote Mr. Thomas M. Owen: "It's constitution was prepared by Dr. Basil Manly, the chief promoter in the formation of the Society. It's first officials were: President, Alexander Bowie; First Vice President, A. J. Pickett; Second Vice President, E. D. King; Treasurer, Washington Moody; Secretary, Dr. Joshua Hill Foster; Executive Committee, J. J. Ormond, Dr. Basil Manly, Michael Tuomey, L. C. Garland and Bishop N. H. Cobbs." The Historical and Monumental Association was founded in November, 1865, in the city of Montgomery, and was brought about solely through the undreamed-of disastrous results of the war.

a monument to her heroic dead. Colonel Thomas B. Cooper was called to the chair, and Colonel J. Hodgson appointed Secretary. Judge B. F. Porter stated the object of the meeting in a few brief and touching remarks. A committee was to report permanent officers and a meeting called for at the Capitol at 7 o'clock this evening. Speeches were made by Judge Clitherall, Mr. McCaa of Marengo, and Mr. Cox of Lowndes. A card from Colonel H., secretary of meeting, will be found elsewhere. This society appeals to the heart of every Alabamian, and we hope its labors will be entirely successful."

The paper of the same date contains the following :

"NOTICE.—At a preliminary meeting of citizens held yesterday at the Capitol, I was instructed to inform the public that to-night at 7 o'clock a meeting of all interested in the subject will take place in the Representative hall of the Capitol for the purpose of organizing an association to preserve the historical facts in relation to the late war and to build a monument to the dead of Alabama. All who take interest in the objects of the meeting, ladies and gentlemen, are invited to be present. The sacred duty of preserving the memory of our gallant dead is one which will command the devotion of all who lament misfortune and applaud virtue. Let the meeting to-night be so attended as to prove that the people of Alabama are willing to leave their deeds to the vindication of history and their memory to posterity.

J. H.,

"Secretary."

Montgomery Advertiser, Nov. 24, 1865.

On that date also, in the House of Representatives, the following resolution offered by F. L. Goodwin, Esq., of Franklin county, was adopted :

"RESOLVED, That the use of the hall of the House of Representatives be tendered for this evening to the citizens of Alabama, who desire to form an Historical Association to perpetuate the memory of Alabamians who have died in the service of the country."—(House Journal, 1865-66, p. 41).

The Montgomery Advertiser of November 26 contains this notice of that memorable meeting:*

Pursuant to notice, the Historical Association of Alabama met at 7 P. M., November 24, 1865, in the Representative Hall of the Capitol, Colonel Thomas B. Cooper in the chair. The meeting being called to order, the committee upon organization made the following report through its chairman, B. F. Porter,† of Butler:

REPORT.

The committee to which was referred a resolution directing a nomination of permanent officers of the Historical Association of Alabama have discharged their duty and respectfully report—

The committee deem it necessary to say that the proposition

*In searching for data of the formation of the Historical and Monumental Association, only the preceding notices and all subsequent ones could be found, the organization proceedings being the important missing links. In a talk with Mr. Thomas M. Owen on the subject, he spoke of having copied from the Selma Messenger this missing link and kindly turned it over to the writer, together with the resolutions passed by the House of Representatives above quoted. Subsequently the files of the Montgomery Advertiser of November, 1865, were found containing the original proceedings from which the Selma paper had copied them.

†Benjamin F. Porter, of Alabama, was born on Sullivan's Island, a summer resort for Charleston, S. C., in 1808. Losing his father when a mere lad, he was forced to begin the battle of life with limited education which he improved by self-culture to one of great breadth and scope. A checkered career was his fate through a romantic and useful life. Besides his duties as statesman he was indefatigable with his pen and was both author and poet. Judge Porter's achievements for his State are too numerous for this short sketch and are of untold value. At the first signs of war between the States he opposed secession, believing in mutual concessions instead of armed conflict. Yet, when Alabama seceded, there was no more faithful confederate and he gave his first born to his State. He died in 1868,

to organize the Association cannot too strongly appeal to the sympathies of the people of the State.

The mere call strikes a string whose key is the human heart. Next to the return of our dead sons to the hearthstones are the memories of their lives and deaths; and from many a home, amidst renewed tears and lamentations, Rachels mourning for their children, will be heard the cry of "Let us hasten to perpetuate their memory."

The committee finds it unnecessary, too, to mix with the griefs and duties of the occasion the slightest allusion to the origin of the struggle in which so many have found graves. We wish to preserve the recollection of our heroic dead, unmixed with bitterness.

We desire a pall dropped upon the past except so far as their patriotic devotion is to be recorded. The grave of a hero is sacred everywhere—the impulses which prompt to its veneration are indifferent to neither friend nor foe. The Englishman, full of the thrills which accompany the memory of Waterloo, bows in reverence to the tomb in which reposes the ashes of Napoleon. The child reads on the monument which marks the resting place of Wolff and Montgomery lessons which inspire to public virtue and self-sacrifice in the cause of his country.

In this sense we desire to record the memory of our sons, and erect a cenotaph which shall at once be sacred to their names and battlefields. Nor will it be said by the invidious critic that this pious task is affected by unfaithfulness to our now common country. The Union and Constitution of that country owe their origin to no principle at variance with the love of our birth places which, beginning in the family circle, is the germ of love of country, and which gradually expanding takes in all mankind in its generous grasp of bevolence and patriotism. We say, therefore, let there come up from every mountain and valley a fervent response to this movement. Let us all unite in erecting a pillar for the dead of Alabama in the

while Judge of the twelfth judicial circuit. He married early in life Miss Eliza Taylor Kidd, whose deeds of love to the wounded and dying soldiers, at their home in Greenville, were similar to those of Montgomery's illustrious women.

solemnity and manliness of a yet free people. Let it record only of her sons what the traveler reads of the gallant Spartans who fell at Thermopylae: "We lie here in obedience to the laws of our country."

BENJ. F. PORTER,
Chairman.

ORGANIZATION.

The committee to which was referred a resolution authorizing the nomination of permanent officers of the Association have considered the subject and have instructed me to report the following names for officers and recommend their selection:

For President, Hon. Thos. H. Watts; for Vice Presidents, first circuit, Dr. J. T. Reese; second circuit, Hon. Thomas M. Williams; third circuit, Alberto Martin, Esq.; fourth circuit, Hon. A. M. Gibson; sixth circuit, Col. S. J. Murphy; seventh circuit, L. C. Lanier; eighth circuit, Dr. A. N. Worthy; ninth circuit, Col. Richard Powell; tenth circuit, Gen. W. H. Forney; eleventh circuit, R. R. Dawson, Esq.; Secretary, Col. Joseph Hodgson; Assistant Secretary, Col. W. H. Fowler.

B. F. PORTER, Chairman.

The report being adopted, on motion the Chairman appointed a committee of three, consisting of Hon. B. F. Porter, Judge A. B. Clitherall and Col. R. H. Powell, to wait upon Governor Watts and inform him of his election.

Upon taking the chair Governor Watts* returned his thanks in a few appropriate remarks.

On motion of Mr. McCaa, of Marengo, it was

RESOLVED, That an executive committee consisting of three shall be appointed by the Chair.

*Governor Thomas H. Watts was born in Butler County January, 1819, near Butler Springs. His mother was a daughter of Thomas Hill, one of the first legislators from Conecuh County (now Butler); his father was for many years a well known planter of west Butler. His career was one succession of brilliant achievements to 1862. When, at Corinth, as Colonel of the 17th Alabama Infantry, March, 1862, he was appointed to the cabinet of Jefferson Davis as Attorney-General of the Confederate States. This he resigned in 1863 to accept the position of Governor, to which he had been elected. His able administra-

Messrs. McCaa of Marengo, and Goodwin of Franklin, made earnest and eloquent appeals in behalf of the objects of the Association.

On motion, Resolved, That Hon. B. F. Porter, of Butler, be appointed Corresponding Secretary of this Society.

On motion, the following resolutions, offered by Mr. Thompkins, of Mobile, were referred to the Executive Committee :

1st. RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State be memorialized by a standing committee of three persons to be appointed by the President of this meeting, to appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) out of any moneys in the State treasury not otherwise appropriated, as a basis of capital upon which to begin the erection of a monument on the Capitol grounds, with the inscription: "Alabama honors her sons who died in her service."

2nd. RESOLVED, That the outside of said monument shall be built of solid marble, and under the supervision and after the plan hereafter to be agreed upon, by said standing committee referred to in the first of these resolutions.

3rd. RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed by the President of this meeting to consist of not less than one nor more than four persons from each county within the State of Alabama, each committee to embrace as its chairman the Probate Judge of the respective counties; said committee to solicit

tion as Governor during this trying period (1863 to 1865), when the State was under control of Federal armies, gave him the honored title of "War Governor." Among the priceless relics of the State Capitol is now the handsome book case used by him in those days. It is the property of the Cradle of the Confederacy Chapter, U. D. C., having been presented to them by members of the Governor's family. A noted soldier, in speaking of him, recently said with emphasis and enthusiasm: "He was a great man; he had few peers and no superior." His large fortune was confiscated by the Federal soldiers. Unmurmuring he took up his profession of law until his death. His son, Hon. Thomas H. Watts, is one of the foremost lawyers of Alabama, and was a conspicuous and valued member of the recent Constitutional Convention. Another son, John W. Watts, Esq., and two daughters, Mrs. Alexander Troy and Mrs. Robert Collins, still reside in Montgomery.

subscriptions to promote the object of these resolutions, and to report monthly on the same until such time as the standing committee to be appointed under resolution the first shall discharge them and declare the work completed.

4th. **RESOLVED**, That the committees appointed under the third of these resolutions be instructed to gather data and a correct list of those who have died in battle or otherwise, while a member of any military company, raised within the State of Alabama between the first day of January 1861, and the first day of May, 1865. Said data, memoranda or list as aforesaid, shall be forwarded to the standing committee provided for in the first of these resolutions, and ten thousand copies of the same shall be printed for general distribution, one hundred of which shall be filed in the archives of the State.

On motion of General James H. Clanton, **Resolved**, That a committee of five be appointed by the President to draft and report a Constitution and By-Laws for the government of this Society, and that said committee be requested to report at our next meeting.

The President appointed as this committee General Clanton, Captain Goodwin, Captain Richardson, Judge Phelan and Mr. Tompkins.

On motion of Judge Porter, **Resolved**, That a committee of five be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to prepare an address to the people of Alabama in reference to the object of this Association and solicit their earnest co-operation.

RESOLVED, That every man, woman and child of the State who authorize the Secretary to record their names shall be considered a member of this Association.

On motion of Mr. McCaa, that the Executive Committee be instructed to apply to the Legislature for an act for the incorporation of the Association.

In support of the object of the meeting eloquent remarks were made by Judge A. B. Clitherall, Col. John W. A. Sanford and Gen. James H. Clanton, in response to calls from the Association.*

*General John W. A. Sanford is the only one of this brilliant trio now living. A mutual friend tells the following amusing incident of the occasion of those speeches: At that time Judge

Colonels Joseph Hodgson and V. S. Murphy excused themselves on account of the lateness of the hour, and on motion the Association adjourned to meet at the Representative hall of Capitol at 7 P. M.. on Wednesday, November 2.

JOSEPH HODGSON, Secretary.

The next mention of the Alabama Historical and Monumental Society was found in The Daily Mail, of Montgomery, December 9, 1865, as follows:

"Ex-Governor Watts, President of Alabama Historical and Monumental Association, has appointed Hon. B. F. Porter, Col. V. S. Murphy, Dr. William J. Holt, Colonel Bolling Hall, Jr., and Captain Elmore J. Fitzpatrick a committee to memorialize the Legislature in behalf of the objects of the Association."

In December, 1865, we find in The Mail the next mention :

"HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—The committee of Alabama Monumental and Historical Society, of which Hon. B. F. Porter, of Greenville, is chairman, was appointed to prepare an address to the people of this State in behalf of the objects of the Association and not to the Legislature, as was at first published."

A most rigid search of all files of the papers of the city or of State documents fails to find anything else on this subject until March, 1866. Colonel Porter, the Corresponding Secretary, however, to quote another, "made earnest appeals in behalf of its objects in the press and by circulars. He did not meet with the success commensurate with his efforts. No record of his work has been preserved."

Clitherall and Colonel Sanford were opposing each other for Attorney-General. General Sanford had not been present at the initial meeting of that morning. Friends meeting the General twitted him on his absence and told him that Judge Clitherall had made a most eloquent speech and was getting ahead of him. It is needless to say that the General was on hand that night and covered himself with glory. General Sanford's reply is that it was this speech which helped to gain for him the victory.

CHAPTER IV.

The next mention of any association is found in The Mail of January 4, 1866, which speaks favorably of the "Ladies' Southern Aid Association, formed by Mississippi, a branch of which is established in each of the late Confederate States. The principal object is to raise funds that will place the wife and children of Jefferson Davis above possibility of want or dependence upon charity of friends." The following reply of Mrs. Davis, which was published a few days later, is so tenderly beautiful, so noble, yet so pathetic, that it is worthy a place in the hearts of all true Southerners, as well as in the history of our States. The Daily Mail heads it "A Message of Love From Prison Gates."

MILL VIEW, GA., December 4, 1865.

T. B. CLARK, Esq., Sect'y and Agent L. S. A. Association :

My Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your very kind letter in the name of the Ladies' Southern Aid Association, having for its object the purpose of placing me and family in circumstances somewhat commensurate with their estimates of me and mine, and begging that I will at my earliest convenience designate a place to which the means so collected may be conveyed, so that they may safely and satisfactorily reach me.

From our desolated and impoverished friends I scarcely expected such an expression of material sympathy, though my powers of gratitude have been almost daily taxed to thank those who have with so much heart-eloquence plead with the President for him who, though unsuccessful, has given you all he could—his best energies—and whose only hope of future happiness lies in the sweet trust, often expressed, that he has not lost your confidence and love. Ignorant of all which his own people have done for him in his painful captivity, his de-

votion is unabated. "The unfortunate have always been deserted and betrayed, but did ever one have less to complain of when he had lost the power to serve? The multitude are silent—why should they speak save to Him who hears best the words most secretly uttered? My own heart tells me the sympathy exists; that the prayers from the family hearth are not hushed. Be loving and confiding still to those from whom I have received so much more than I deserve—far more official honors than I ever desired. Those for whose cause I suffer are not unworthy of the devotion of all which I had to give." This is the message of love which is sent through prison gates to our own people. I say our own people because both of us have been brought up with you. One was born in Mississippi, the other came to it in infancy.* These are my own people, and it is a privilege of which no change can deprive me. To the accepted prayers of our widows and orphans, our suffering but heroic women, our brave and true men, our innocent little children, I look for the restoration to my little children of their agonized but Christian father. If a merciful Providence so ordain it we hope to live and die among you, mutually consoling and bearing each others burdens. I pray God we may not be driven from the home of our childhood, "for how can we sing our own song in a strange land?" We would not have our dear friends betrayed by their sympathy into offering for our use too much from their own "basket and store." I and mine have so far been miraculously cared for and shielded from want. We seem ever environed by the love which is reflected upon us from that which lighted my husband in his dungeon, softened

*Only a few days since Mrs. Davis visited her beloved Mississippi. Parts of the Capitol of that State were to be remodeled, and the Legislature wished to greet once more the beloved wife of our martyred hero within the historic old hall made sacred by his one-time presence. One of the saddest trials of Mrs. Davis' life has been that the state of her health and the necessities of life compelled her to leave her people. Be it said to the eternal glory of the South that one of her sorrowful regrets shall ever be that a cruel fate compelled such renunciation on the part of both the beloved widow and our sainted Winnie.

The meeting in the old hall for that last time, Mrs. Davis' tender reception by the General Assembly of Mississippi, and her loving, heartbroken response are a pathetic picture which will live in the Southern heart forever.

his prison walls with sunny pictures of loving eyes and out-stretched arms.

Grief and gratitude seem to impose upon me silence. I would but can not say more. I will enclose within this note the names and directions of gentlemen to whom the contributions of which you speak may be enclosed. And instead of the eloquent voice which so often has poured forth his love to his dear people, now mute, I offer a wife's and mother's and a countrywoman's gratitude to you and those you represent. I have the honor to be very gratefully and sincerely yours,

VARINA DAVIS.

On January 19 we find notice that the ladies of Selma, Ala., are raising funds to erect a monument to Rev. A. M. Small, who fell in defense of that city. On March 3, 1866, there came this call to the women of Alabama, through an editorial in *The Mail*, as follows:

"AN APPEAL FOR THE DEAD."

"We have received a letter from Colonel T. B. Roy, late chief of staff to General Hardee, inclosing a circular from ladies of Winchester, Va., asking for contributions to aid in collecting the remains of our brave soldiers who lie buried around that place. It is proposed by the noble Virginia ladies to prepare a cemetery at Winchester for the reception of those remains which are not removed by friends. The plough-share is now passing over their graves and soon the places which once knew of their gallant devotion on the banks of the Shenandoah will know them no more forever, unless the hand of pious affection collects their ashes and marks their resting place in some consecrated ground. Very many of the thousands of hillocks which furrow the banks of the Shenandoah cover the remains of gallant Alabamians. Let the daughters of Alabama assist their sisters of Virginia in this pious undertaking. A small amount of money from each community will be sufficient. Our friends who desire to assist in this matter are respectfully informed that Colonel Roy, of Selma, will act as agent for the State. Several ladies have kindly consented to receive and forward subscriptions from Montgomery. Any contributions left with the editors of *The Mail* will be handed to the lady agents."

The Mail of same date also chronicles the following :

"The ball given on Thursday night at Leman's Hall by the Hebrew Ladies' Sewing and Benevolent Society was largely attended, and we are pleased to learn that a handsome amount was realized to assist in charitable purposes. Dancing was kept up and at 12 o'clock a magnificent supper was served."

In the March 9th issue of the Mail we read :

Col. T. B. Roy, of Selma, has been requested by the ladies of Virginia to act as agent for the State of Alabama. Col. Roy has addressed us a note in which he says: "Impressed with the belief that ladies are more successful in such enterprises, and with the importance of selecting suitable persons to act as agents, I beg that you will fix upon some ladies in Montgomery of public spirit and extended acquaintance to act as agents for that place and do whatever else you may have it in your power, editorially or otherwise, in aid of this good work." Mrs. A. G. McGehee* and Miss Goldthwaite,† of Montgomery,

*Mrs. Albert Gallatin McGehee, nee Agnes Catherine Venable, was born November, 1817, at Longwood, the family home near Farmville, Va. She was the daughter of Nathaniel E. and Mary E. Venable, of Prince Edward County, Va. Mrs. McGehee was one of the most patriotic and broad-minded women of the South, and as soon as Virginia, her beloved native state, seceded, she embraced the Southern cause with all the zeal of her great heart and served her country faithfully through all the trying years of the civil war. When the end came she accepted the inevitable with the same greatness of soul that was ever her characteristic strength, and energetically answered the first call made to the women of Alabama for the proper burial of Alabama dead on the battlefields.

†Mrs. Annie Goldthwaite Seibles, who, as Miss Goldthwaite, answered with Mrs. McGehee the first appeal to procure means for the proper burial of Alabama soldiers, is a native Montgomerian. Her father was Judge Geo. Goldthwaite, whose long career on the bench "established his reputation as a profound jurist with no eccentricities or vagaries to alloy the wisdom and dignity of his official deportment." Her mother was Miss Wallach, a sister of the one time Mayor Wallach of Washington, D. C. She is also the niece of Judge Jno. A. Campbell. Capt. R. W. Goldthwaite, who so long commanded Semple's battery, is a brother of Mrs. Seibles, while Mrs. Eliza Arrington, the distinguished wife of Judge Thomas N. Arrington-

have kindly consented to receive and forward contributions in aid of the ladies of Winchester. We are pleased to know that a considerable sum has already been raised by their exertions to assist in collecting within consecrated grounds the remains of sons of Alabama, who sleep their long sleep on the banks of the Shenandoah. Let not a tomb be wanting to their ashes nor memory to their virtues.

On March 10th, '66, there is a notice of a pamphlet entitled "Honor to the Dead—A Tribute of Respect to the Memory of Her Fallen Heroes by St. John's M. E. Sunday School, of Augusta, Ga."—which contained eulogies pronounced by Messrs. M. N. Calvin and H. W. Hilliard. The next issue, March 11th, gave the oration of Hon. H. W. Hilliard. What wonder, then, that after such appeals and at such a time the Monumental and Historical Association should take on new life and vigor through its Executive Committee, of which Judge John D. Phelan was Chairman? The notice as published on March 14th, was :

"Ex-Governor Watts, President Alabama Historical and Monumental Society, has appointed the following gentlemen an Executive Committee, whose duty, under the Constitution of the Society, will be to carry out the objects had in view: Hon. J. D. Phelan, Gen. J. H. Clanton, Dr. J. B. Gaston, Col. David F. Blakey, Rev. Dr. I. T. Tichenor. It is to be hoped that a meeting of the Executive Committee will take place as soon as possible for the purpose of making a movement towards the consummation so ardently desired by every citizen of the State. A society of this kind, if managed with proper spirit, should be productive of incalculable good. The collection of a Historical Library for the preservation and perpetuation of military and civil records is hardly of less benefit to the State than the erection of monuments by which the virtues of the

ton, is her sister. Both of these ladies still reside in Montgomery, honored members of the Memorial Association, whose first work Mrs. Seibles anticipated some weeks before its formation.

fathers may be kept before the eyes of the children for generations to come. In time, when the means of the Society increases, the field of labor might also increase. It might take under its fostering care the guardianship of the orphans of soldiers and of maimed destitute. The establishment of a single Soldiers' Home or a single orphans' school would be the planting of a single grain from which a bountiful harvest might be reaped in time."

On the same date in the Mail touching the subject is a fling at the tardiness and lack of interest in the Legislature of Alabama, headed: "The Legislature Forgot!" Continuing, it says:

"A gentleman vested with authority from the Georgia Legislature has gone to Virginia with the intention of disinterring and removing to the former state the remains of the Georgians who fell in Virginia in the late war. Did the Legislature of Alabama forget to provide proper burial for the gallant dead of our State? We hear of no commission or agent being sent to the battlefields to remove the remains of our beloved sons from the desecration of the ploughshare. Other states are rendering to their dead the pious rites which their remains should receive, but Alabama is permitting the graves of those who laid down their lives for her to be lost forever under the ploughed soil."

The next day came this call from Judge Phelan for a meeting of the Executive Committee:

"HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Executive Committee of Alabama Historical and Monumental Society will meet at the editorial office of the Mail on Saturday evening, 17th inst., at 8 o'clock, to attend to important business.

JOSEPH HODGSON,
Cor. Sec."

(Mail, March 15.)

In another place, same date, under the heading, "A Noble Task," is another appeal to the ladies:

"We see from the papers that ladies of several Southern cities are engaged in the sad but sacred duty of ornamenting and improving that portion of the city burial ground in which

repose the remains of our noble Confederate dead. A visit to our cemetery will at once reveal to the visitor a sorrowful sight. Many of the graves of the Southern soldiers are in a wretched condition, without head or foot boards or railing to mark where lie those gallant fellows; they are neglected and no notice whatever seems to be taken of the spot. Nearly every Southern State is represented by its dead in our cemetery. We trust this sacred matter will receive that prompt attention which it deserves and we invite the ladies to take it under consideration.

A lady correspondent of the Columbus (Ga.) Sun very truthfully remarks that 'we cannot raise monumental shaft and inscribe thereon their many deeds of heroism, but we can keep alive the memory of the debt we owe them by at least dedicating one day in each year to embellishing their humble graves with flowers.'"

Two days after this the Executive Committee which had been previously called by Judge Phelan, met with the following result :

"ALABAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Executive Committee of the Alabama Historical and Monumental Society met at the Mail office Saturday evening, March 17th, Judge Phelan presiding. The following resolution was offered by Gen. James H. Clanton* and adopted:

Whereas, the Legislature of Georgia, at the recent session, appointed a commissioner to Proceed to the battlefields of Vir-

*Gen'l. James H. Clanton was born in Columbia county, Ga., January 8th, 1827, coming with his father to Alabama at the age of nine years. His father was Nathaniel H. Clanton, then an opulent planter of Macon county, Ala. Gen. Clanton was first a soldier in the Mexican war under Capt. Rush Elmore, leaving the University of Alabama to enlist. As a Confederate soldier he rose each year of the war, being in 1864 Major-General, and at the battle of Shiloh, Chief of Cavalry. During the reconstruction days his hopeful presence and fearless determination were a tower of strength to his city and state. His tragic death occurred on September 27, 1871, in Knoxville, Tenn., where, as agent of Alabama, Gen. Clanton was attending the United States Court in the case of the Alabama-Chattanooga R. R. In a dispute over a trivial matter with Col. Davis M. Nelson, an officer of the Federal army, the latter shot down with buckshot one of the most courageous Cœur de Lions of the

ginia and other States to collect and protect from desecration the remains of her gallant dead; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this committee recommend the appointment of a Commissioner by the President of the Society to act in concert with said Commissioner, whose expenses shall be advanced by the Society until the meeting of the next General Assembly of this State.

On motion of Dr. J. B. Gaston,* it was resolved that the Chairman of the Executive Committee, with the President of the Society, appoint without delay Vice-Presidents in each county of the State in accordance with the Constitutional provisions. In offering this resolution he explained the urgent necessity of raising funds in order to carry into effect the resolution of General Clanton. If Vice-Presidents were appointed for each county immediately, under their auspices the ladies of the State would prepare Bazaars or Fairs upon the first day of May and raise money enough to give the remains of our dead decent burial. Even our own cemetery in Montgomery, which

South. The Legislature of Alabama being in session, Hon. Wm. M. Lowe, Chairman of a special committee suggested by Governor Lindsay, presented resolutions which called forth many brilliant and heartfelt eulogies of the deceased soldier from that distinguished body. Gen'l. Clanton was one of the most enthusiastic members of the Executive Committee of the Historical and Monumental Association.

*Dr. John Brown Gaston was born in Chester county, S. C., on January 4, 1834. His father was John Brown Gaston, Sr., of distinguished Huguenot ancestry, who married Mary Buford McFadden, a native of South Carolina of Scotch descent. Dr. J. B. Gaston's grandfather was Joseph Gaston, youngest son of John Gaston, whose nine sons were actively engaged in the Revolutionary war, three of whom were killed in the battle of Hanging Rock, while one, a Lieutenant, died of smallpox during Sumter's retreat from Wright's Bluff. Joseph Gaston, then a lad of sixteen, was wounded at Hanging Rock. Dr. John B. Gaston is one of five brothers in the Confederate army, three of whom died in the service. He was a distinguished surgeon throughout the war, participating in all the hard fought battles. After the surrender he returned to Montgomery and resumed the practice of medicine, which profession is indebted to him for many services both to state and science. In 1857 Dr. Gaston was married to Miss Sallie J. Torrence, of North Carolina. They still reside in Montgomery, an honor to their State and county.

contains the remains of hundreds of soldiers, is sadly neglected. We should take this matter in hand without delay.

On motion of General Clanton, the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the Corresponding Secretary of the Society be instructed to devise a plan for the establishment at the city of Montgomery of a Public Historical Library for the collection of historical records and to further carry out the object of the Society in the preservation of the records of the late war, and that he be instructed to report such plan to the next meeting of the committee for its consideration.

On motion, adjourned until Saturday, 24th, 3:30 p. m.

JOSEPH HODGSON,

(Mail, March 18th, 1866.)

Cor. Sec."

The following was still another appeal to the ladies of Montgomery to carry out the plan proposed by the Executive Committee to have fairs, etc., to assist in this great work: "It is proposed that on the first day of May the ladies of every city, town and village throughout the State, by means of fairs or concerts, contribute their quota towards defraying the expenses necessary for the prosecution of this purpose. There can be no doubt that the necessary amount will be collected without imposing a tax upon anyone. The late appeal of the ladies of Winchester for assistance to a similar labor of love has been answered throughout the State without delay. Montgomery has furnished \$200.00. Not only are the ladies of Winchester in need of funds, but appeals have come to us from Franklin, Perryville and other places where great battles were fought. It may be impossible to answer every call made upon us, but it would be disgraceful not to answer some of them. Will not the ladies of Montgomery have a fair upon the first day of May for the benefit of this pious duty? We know that the question is only to be asked to receive an affirmative answer, for the ladies of Montgomery

have never been weary of labors imposed by benevolence since the unhappy commencement of our troubles."

(Daily Mail, March 20th, '66.)

No further notice of the subject under discussion appears in print until April 3, '66; but from all over the South such pleas as well as appeals for the destitute and suffering were going up for similar holy causes. Witness the files from the 20th of March on:

From LaGrange, Ga.:

A concert was given by young ladies of LaGrange on Wednesday night for the purpose of raising funds with which to enclose and beautify the soldiers' grave-yard at that place.— (March 25, '66).

(March 28, '66, Daily Mail):

The Selma Messenger of the 25th acknowledges the following receipts to Winchester Cemetery Fund for the week:

From Miss Belle Woodruff, agent at Tuscaloosa.....	\$192 50
From Miss ——, Marengo County.....	25 00
From Mrs. N. H. R. Dawson, Selma (second remittance)	60 00
From Mrs. McGehee, Montgomery (second remittance)	31 00

Another note of interest, under date April 3, '66, says:

Miss Augusta J. Evans* has consented to take the lead in the

*Augusta Evans Wilson is so familiar a household name in her beloved Southland that almost any sketch would seem supererogation. A few local notes not heretofore generally known will, however, be of interest. Mrs. Augusta Evans Wilson was a native Georgian, her mother being a Miss Howard, of Columbus. Her girlhood was spent in Texas, where, as Augusta Evans, she wrote her first novel, "Inez." Before publishing it her family moved to Mobile, Ala. A friend of her father, believing in her future and fearing that her father might not be able to get out the book at once, himself had it published. In one of her subsequent works, Miss Evans shows her appreciation of this act of kindness by naming one of her

good work of collecting funds to repair and protect the graves of the soldiers of Mobile, and then consult with her sisters of the State on the time and manner of commemorating our worthy dead.

A much later notice, May 19, says:

We are happy to be able to state that Colonel Ingersol, the President of the committee, having informed Miss Evans that she could proceed to purchase or contract for a monument to our dead, this gifted young lady purchased yesterday a fine marble mausoleum, which had been imported in Mobile from the North before the war. The monument is of white marble and of exquisite proportions, and application will be made to the City Board for leave to raise it on the mound in the centre of Bienville square, and the request will no doubt be granted. —(Mobile Register).

Then there appeared in The Mail the notable letter of "Augustus," who is supposed to have been Colonel Gus Baldwin, for twenty-two years Attorney-General of the State of Alabama.*

noblest characters for this gentleman. Montgomerians will be glad to know that this was the late Hon. Wm. Phinizy Hammond, whose family now reside in this city. In later years, it is said of Mrs. Wilson that she prefers to date her books from "Beulah," instead of her girlhood novel, "Inez." This brilliant and good woman, since the death of her husband, has left the beautiful suburban home on Spring Hill Road, and now resides in the city, on Government Street, Mobile. At this time (1866) two continents were thrilled and enthusiastic over this new star, but she found time amid her pleasurable literary work to serve her country in this noble philanthropy. Under her leadership the ladies of Mobile responded gladly to the call of Virginia ladies, through Colonel Roy, Alabama State Agent, and with the assistance of the Mobile Register and the loyal citizens, over \$1,500 went out from Mobile to this one appeal alone.

*Since the above was written it has been ascertained that Colonel Gus Baldwin died in August, 1865, therefore making it impossible for him to have been the author of the letter. His often-expressed interest in the Confederate dead lead many to believe it to have been written by him. Some thought it might have sprung from Colonel John W. A. Sanford, but the Colonel is very positive that he is not the author. Others suggest-

EDITORS MAIL: Sunday I paid a visit to our city cemetery and blushed to see the graves of some of my brave comrades so much neglected. I have lately seen two or three articles in your paper calling upon the ladies to raise money to defray the expenses of the removal of the remains of Confederate soldiers from battlefields in Virginia and elsewhere. While I heartily approve of this, I would respectfully ask that some attention be paid to the graves of Confederate soldiers in our own city cemetery. If more care is not taken of them, in a few months it will be impossible to designate the grave of one soldier from another. Every State of the late Confederacy is represented here and it is a duty we owe to our sister States as well as to the brave men who perished in the performance of what they believed to be their duty, to keep their graves in order. I have visited the cemetery three or four times recently and while I see crowds of ladies and gentlemen in it, I seldom see a single person near the graves of dead Confederates, and this, too, in a city that has professed so much love for them. A few dollars placed at the disposal of some responsible persons, or a few hours' work, will place these graves in a respectable condition. Will not the ladies of Montgomery attend to this? If they will not, I, as one of their comrades in arms, will call upon those soldiers who were fortunate enough to have their lives spared, to furnish the means which it will require to do the work. The ladies of our neighboring city, Columbus, intend to dedicate the 9th of April (anniversary of General Lee's surrender) to the repairing of soldiers' graves in their cemetery or ornamenting them with flowers. Let our ladies do likewise and they can be assured that Heaven will smile upon them with prosperity.

AUGUSTUS.

April 3, 1866.

On April 5 we find copied in The Mail from the Selma Messenger somewhat of touching historic interest:

ed that the article emanated from the pen of Colonel Alexander Troy. The present Hon. Alexander Troy, when approached, protested, smiling, and declared that as he was passing for only forty summers or thereabouts, he could not father the letter. Possibly it may have come from his uncle, the brave Col. D. S. Troy, of the 60th Alabama. From whomever it came, it was noble and timely and did much to arouse interest in the movements then being formulated.

ANNIVERSARY OF SELMA'S STRUGGLE TO BE COMMEMORATED.

As to the number who fell in the action, we have so many different estimates that we are left in uncertainty. The Federal dead have all been removed from the field, we believe, and are properly interred in the city cemetery, with their graves properly marked. This is as it should be, and it only remains to disinter the Confederate killed who were left on the field and in the possession of the victors (and of course buried there), and to give them the rites of Christian sepulture. To-morrow (April 2) has been selected as the day appropriate for this work—being the anniversary of the battle.

April 6, 1866 :

The funeral services of the soldiers who fell in defense of Selma on the 2nd of April last, were largely attended by our citizens. The stores were closed at 4 o'clock by order of the Mayor, and all the bells of the churches tolled. The remains of the deceased were deposited in neatly made coffins and laid in four squares around a beautiful oak just putting out its new foliage. The burial service was read by Rev. Mr. Tichenor, according to the impressive forms of the Church of England. Most of the bodies were in a good state of preservation and some of them almost perfect. A deep and solemn feeling pervaded the audience and their minds were irresistibly carried back to the days when these patriots fell. Nevertheless, when the petition was offered, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," there was not one heart that did not respond to the prayer.—(Selma Messenger).

Then, on April 11th, came that beautiful and memorable appeal to the ladies of Montgomery from Chairman Phelan of the Executive Committee of the Historical and Monumental Society. The call was as follows:

"TO THE LADIES OF MONTGOMERY.

The harp that once thro' Tara's halls
The soul of music shed,
Now hangs as mute on Tara's walls
As though that soul were fled.

It was your pious duty in the day of battle to nurse the sick,

feed the hungry, prepare bandages for the wounded, cheer the living to victory, weep over the dead, applaud the brave and rebuke the laggard. This duty you performed constantly and nobly. You were actuated by the impulse of a heart which beat only for the cause in which your emotional natures were enlisted. That heart was appealed to from the battlefield, the camp and the hospital, and it answered every appeal with the devotion which in former days induced the matrons and maidens of a beleaguered city to cut off their tresses for bow-strings.

The people of Alabama have not forgotten the ministering angels who bore half the brunt of battle, whose smiles garlanded the brows of victory, and whose words of encouragement healed the wounds of defeat. The people of Alabama will never forget the debt of gratitude they owe you, and when their children grow to years of accountability they will say to them "Honor the Creed of your Mother."

The battle is over, but the dead are unburied. They are lying where they fell in the valleys of Virginia and Tennessee. Their bones are bleaching beneath the sun and the storm beside those of the beasts of burden. The ploughshare is striking them from the soil which their blood sanctified. It is true that a single hand here and there is extended to gather their ashes into consecrated ground, where the pious pilgrim may read in a single line the melancholy history of their glory. But a single hand is unequal to the task. To you, daughters of Alabama, comes once more an appeal to help us bury our dead! The Executive Committee, presided over by Judge Phelan, asks you to devote the first evenings of the coming month of May to a fair or festival by which money can be made for this pious purpose. They ask you to set an example to be followed throughout the State. That which will be a labor of love for you will prove the brightest jewel which glitters from your crown of immortality. With your aid, daughters of Montgomery, the mecca of Alabama will be the cemeteries of her soldiers. To collect their remains within church-yards which look out upon the fields of battle, and to decorate them with the simple emblems of purity and holiness, will adorn the abyss of ruin with a splendor as enduring as that of the eternal rainbow which spans the precipice of Niagara. Then in coming years when the world witnesses our pious devotion to the memory of those who laid down their

lives for us, it will be said that the lost star of the Pleiades was the most glorious of the constellation."

(Daily Mail, April 11th, 1866.)

With such words as these ringing in their ears and the direct and pathetic cry—"To you, daughters of Alabama, comes once more an appeal to help us bury our dead"—it is no wonder that the women of Montgomery, in answer to this call, filled the sacred halls of the old Court Street Methodist Church on that beautiful Monday morning on the sixteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-six!

"With your aid, daughters of Montgomery, the mecca of Alabama will be the cemeteries of her soldiers." How exquisitely true these prophetic words of this noble Executive Committee have proven, the ever historic Ladies' Memorial Association of Montgomery, Ala., is beautiful evidence! For in answer to this last appeal came the familiar—

"NOTICE TO THE LADIES.

A general attendance of the ladies of Montgomery is expected at the Methodist Episcopal Church on Monday morning at 10 o'clock to prepare for a festival in aid of the Alabama Monumental and Historical Society, which Society is desirous of taking immediate steps to bury the Alabama soldiers in a decent and becoming manner. All are invited to be present. The article which we publish on the first page of the Mail with reference to the remains of our dead heroes at Shiloh and Corinth, should arouse to exertion in this matter."

—(Mail, April 14th.)

And so, at last, the hearts of the crushed and sorrowing women of Montgomery were touched to action; the blast had sounded through the trumpet of need!

But while all these appeals were being made to the ladies of Montgomery, it must not be thought that they

were mere idle listeners. Back of all this were the women themselves. The call of Judge Phelan, Chairman of the Executive Committee, was due largely to his devoted wife's interest in these affairs, which naturally lay nearest her heart and his, since grief for two of her noble boys, then sleeping the last sleep out on the battlefields far away, was ever tugging at her mother-heart. It was at this time that the following incident occurred at the home of the gentleman whom the illustrious War Governor had made Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Historical and Monumental Society :

Mrs. Phelan, whose boys were still on the far off battlefields, devoured everything pertaining to the subject in the papers and elsewhere. She found one day the letter of Mrs. Mary Anne Williams, of Columbus, Ga., and did not rest until plans were on foot to form an association. The original letter, which is as follows, is in the possession of Mrs. J. D. Beale, youngest daughter of Mrs. Phelan,* and has been kept sacredly by the family among other valuable historic records :

*Mrs. J. D. Beale has inherited her mother's energetic patriotism, and her love of country and state pride have already been marked by some noble mile-stones. She is now Chairman of the White House Committee, Alabama Division U. D. C., having been thus appointed by Miss Sallie Jones, of Camden, the first President of the Division and Honorary Life President of the same. Through Mrs. Beale's unflagging interest the most valuable relics now in the State of Alabama have been procured from Beauvoir—the bed-room furniture and personal effects of Jefferson Davis, entrusted into the perpetual keeping of Mrs. Beale, her committee, and the State of Alabama by Mrs. Varina Anne Davis. Mrs. Beale is also Regent of the White House Association, Daughters of the Confederacy, formed later to assist the committee in the laudable work of preserving the First White House of the Confederacy, which, when accomplished, shall be to Montgomery as Mt. Vernon to Washington, a legacy of tangible history—an object lesson worth many books of written history. Since her return to this the

COLUMBUS, GA., March 12, 1866.

MESSRS. EDITORS: The ladies are now, and have been for several days, engaged in the sad but pleasant duty of ornamenting and improving that portion of the cemetery sacred to the memory of our gallant Confederate dead, but we feel it is an unfinished work unless a day be set apart annually for its especial attention. We can keep alive the memory of the debt we owe by dedicating at least one day in the year to embellishing their humble graves with flowers. Therefore, we beg the assistance of the press and the ladies throughout the South to aid us in the effort to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and be handed down through time as a religious custom of the South to wreath the graves of our martyred dead with flowers, and we propose the 26th of April as the day. Let every city, town and village join in the pleasant duty. Let all alike be remembered, from the heroes of Manassas to those who expired amid the death-throes of our hallowed cause. We'll crown alike the honored resting places of the immortal Jackson in Virginia, Johnston at Shiloh, Cleburne in Tennessee, and the host of gallant privates who adorned our ranks. All did their duty, and to all we owe our gratitude. Let the soldiers' graves, at least for that day, be the Southern mecca to whose shrine her sorrowing women, like pilgrims, may annually bring their grateful hearts and floral offerings. And when we remember the thousands who were buried 'with their martial cloaks around them' without Christian ceremony of interment, we would invoke the aid of the most thrilling eloquence throughout the land to inaugurate this custom, by delivering on the appointed day this year, a eulogy on the unburied dead of our glorious Southern army. They died for their country! Whether their country had or had not the right to demand the sacrifice is no longer a question of discussion. We leave that for nations to decide in future. That it was demanded—that they fought nobly and

state of her birth, Mrs. Beale has been a prominent member of the Memorial Association of Montgomery.

(The writer feels impelled here to state that the foregoing mention has been given without the consent or knowledge of Mrs. Beale or her brother, Mr. Phelan. They are important facts of history and a noble record which should be preserved.)

fell holy sacrifices upon their country's altar, and are entitled to their country's gratitude, none will deny.

The proud banner under which they rallied in defense of the hollest and noblest cause for which heroes fought or trusting women prayed, has been furled forever. The country for which they suffered and died has now no name or place among the nations of the earth. Legislative enactment may not be made to do honor to their memories, but the veriest radical that ever traced his genealogy back to the deck of the Mayflower, could not refuse us the simple privilege of paying honor to those who died defending the life, honor and happiness of the Southern women.

Mrs. Phelan read the letter aloud to her family, and there about the hearthstone, with the shadows of her dead trembling about her heart, the mother urged her husband to take some steps toward immediate action in his Executive Committee. Her daughter, Mrs. Priscilla P. Williamson, now of Tennessee, in speaking of that time, says :

"The facts in connection with that patriotic and sad, though glorious time, are as fresh in my mind as though it happened yesterday. I remember how impatient my dear mother was for the morrow. She went at once (I was with her) to see her loved friend, Mrs. Dr. Baldwin, whose heart was heavy with the loss of her own soldier son, Willie, and told her of the letter and the plans. Mrs. Baldwin co-operated with her body and soul—they together went to see Mrs. Judge Bibb—dear 'Aunt Sophie'—whom they knew to be the heart of every good deed, and she, too, was enthusiastic."

This statement has been verified by several members of the family, then present at the home circle, who were old enough to remember, namely, Mrs. Priscilla Williamson, Mrs. Mary P. Watt, Mrs. Anna King Derby and Mr. Sidney Harris Phelan. The last named says:

“Remember it? While life lasts I can not forget. I can see my brave, heartbroken mother now as plainly as I see to-day the faces around me. I remember her very words as she argued the plans there at home. For days and nights, even before this incident, these topics so near to our hearts were the subject of earnest discussions. Since that time they have been a constant theme in our families. I was supposed to be a boy then—perhaps so in years—but we had no boys in the South—our boys were men before their time.”

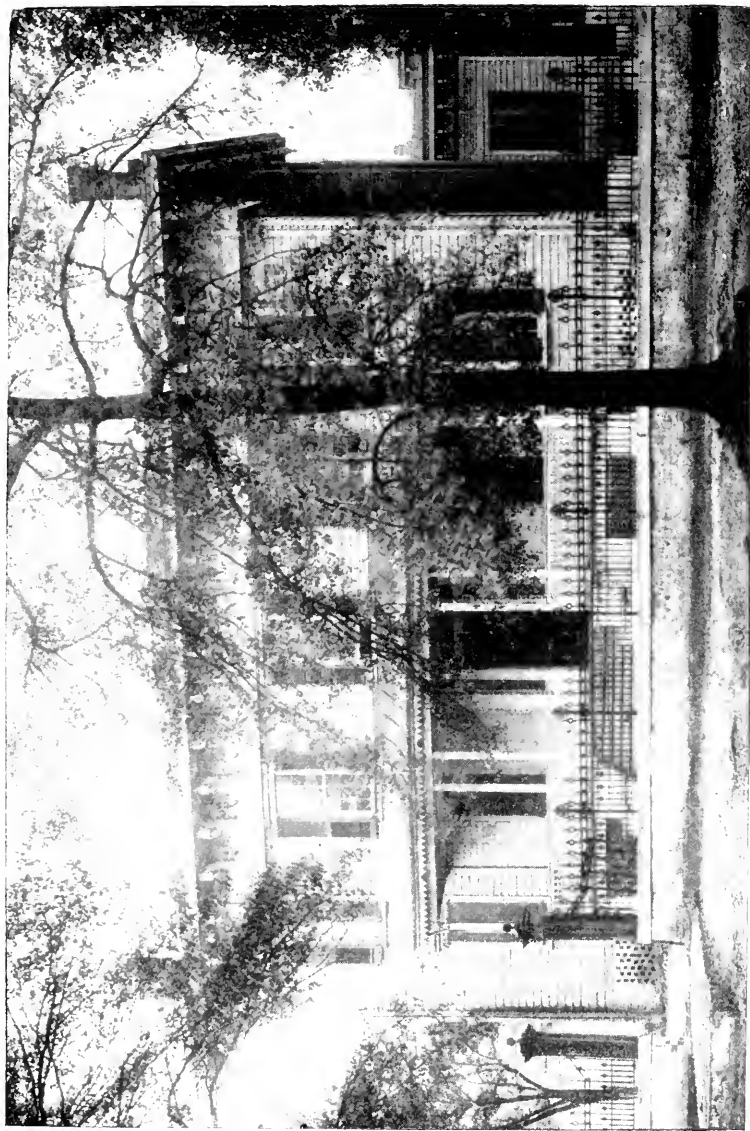
Doubtless many a bereaved mother, sister and sweet-heart were also discussing the same subject, of which all the papers were full, and with a oneness of heart had determined then and there to take the beautiful suggestion from Georgia and respond at once to the call so feelingly and earnestly made by the gentlemen of Alabama, who had already formed themselves into the Monumental and Historical Association, and whose Executive Committee was now formulating plans for recovering the scattered bones and unburied bodies of our noble heroes. Mrs. M. D. Bibb, wearing worthily the mantle of her sainted mother, tells in glowing words how her mother, too, talked daily of this need of the hour, while many others testify that the same was true about their own hearth-stones. As one of the ladies said, with the light of other days in her eyes: “It was as though a mighty cloud of determination broke into a simultaneous storm!”

It was immediately after the touching incident in Judge Phelan’s home that he gave the call for the Executive Committee meeting of the 17th of March, and reference to the report as has already been given shows that the matter was there discussed. Following close on these came the Executive Committee’s direct appeal

to the ladies, and on April 14th the official notice to the ladies, all of which has been herein given. Thus it will be seen that the Memorial Association is the outcome of the Historical and Monumental Association, and not of the Ladies' Hospital Association, as has often been thought. The fact that so many of the ladies who were actively engaged in the hospital work were also charter members of the Memorial Association, probably gave rise to this idea.

Promptly at ten on the morning of April 16, in answer to the call of the 14th, the streets were bright with a crowd of the loveliest ladies and the most chivalric gentlemen the world has ever known, wending their way to the sacred old building known as the Court Street Methodist Church. The old church stands to-day, rich with every sacred memory of peace and war, of plighted troth and sacred vow, of joy and sorrow, hope and heart-ache.* That morning the old doors opened to an

*Court Street Methodist Church is one of the historic landmarks of Montgomery. The simple frame structure which gave way for the present building was the first church ever built in Montgomery, and stood side by side in historic value with the old court house, then occupying the space a block below, where now gleams the fountain. Court street and Church street took their names from these two buildings, though the old court house antedated the church by some years. This court house has been erroneously supposed by some to have been at one time the Capitol—that it answered almost every known purpose is matter of history. Before the old church was built every denomination in the city held services in the court house. It is somewhat of pleasing local interest to know that Rev. James King, the grandfather of Revs. James K., William H. and Thomas Armstrong, D. D., was the first licensed preacher whose voice ever echoed through the hearts of Montgomerians. In the early days of 1819, just before New Philadelphia and Alabama Town became Montgomery, "Grandfather King," as he was lovingly called in later years, came to Montgomery County from Wilmington, N. C., where, in 1806, he was ordained by Bishop McKendree—the first ordination ever performed in that city. Rev. James King was one



THE FIRST WHITE HOUSE OF THE CONFEDERACY.



earnest throng—hopeful but not buoyant, for the memory of happier days, and the heavy burdens of recent dark hours were too nearly blended to bring aught save hope to such brave hearts as even these.

The following report of this historic meeting is taken from the Mail of April 17th, 1866:

“THE LADIES’ MEETING.

The assemblage of ladies at the Methodist Episcopal Church Monday morning was large and great interest and determination was manifested in the laudable objects which called them together. The meeting was harmonious in the extreme and the Society was permanently organized, officers elected and appropriate committees appointed. We submit the following proceedings below which fully set forth the objects and aims of this noble Society, kindly furnished us by Mrs. Jennie Hilliard* for publication:

At a meeting of the ladies of Montgomery held pursuant to notice at the Methodist Episcopal Church on Monday, the 16th day of April, 1866, to devise ways and means for raising funds to have the remains of Alabama soldiers, now lying scattered over the various battlefields of the war, collected and deposited in public burial grounds, or elsewhere, where they may be

of the remarkable men of his day. His unusual gifts of oratory have been a rich legacy fully inherited through three generations.

*Mrs. Jennie Hilliard is the daughter of Hon. John Whiting, the noted financier, who was President of the South & North Railroad and Commissioner and Trustee of the Banks—following with credit Hon. Francis S. Lyon, the great Secretary and President of the Senate who subsequently made famous this important office of Sole Commissioner and Trustee of Banks. Mrs. Hilliard’s mother was Elizabeth Bell, sister of Mr. W. B. Bell. As Miss Jennie Whiting she married Wm. Preston Hilliard, son of Hon. Henry W. Hilliard, the orator, writer and statesman. She resides now in Knoxville, Tenn. Her services to the Memorial Association began with its first meeting. She furnished notices to the press of its inaugural meetings and her pen was constantly wielded for the cause, as will be found among the files of those days as well as more recent numbers. She was the second Secretary of the Memorial Association, which position she ably filled until her departure to Tennessee.

saved from neglect, Mrs. Judge Bibb was requested to preside over the meeting and Mrs. Dr. Baldwin requested to act as Secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained by the Chair, and on motion of Mrs. Dr. Baldwin, a committee of five was appointed by the Chair to consider and report some plan that might best promote the objects of the meeting, and to recommend the names of suitable persons as permanent officers of this Society. The Chair appointed on this committee Mrs. Dr. Baldwin, Chairman; Mrs. Wm. Johnston,* Mrs. Judge Rice, Mrs. Dr. Holt and Mrs. Dr. James Ware, who retired, and after consultation suggested the following names as permanent officers, and on motion of Mrs. Wm. Pollard,† they were unani-

*Mrs. Wm. Johnston, the only surviving member of this committee, was Mary Anne Holt, daughter of Wm. White Holt and Mary Arinton Ware, of Augusta, Ga. She was born in Augusta in 1826. Her father was an officer in the war of 1812, and Judge for nineteen years of the Middle District of Georgia. Her Grandfather was Dr. Wm. Holt, of Virginia, a brave revolutionary soldier. She was married in 1853 to Wm. Johnston, who was the son of Archibald Simpson Johnston, Kort, Glasgow, Scotland, and Agnes Bolton Ewing, of Charleston, S. C. In 1858 they moved to Alabama and lived on their fine plantation, ten miles from Montgomery, near McGehee's Switch. Immediately after the war they moved to Montgomery and resided in the house which was then next to the Jefferson Davis Home, to-day known as the First White House of the Confederacy. She now resides in Montgomery at Highland Park in her picturesque, artistic home, "The Pines." Mrs. Johnston is a sister of Mrs. W. W. Screws, of this city.

Mrs. Judge Rice was Miss Amanda Pearson, of South Carolina, a brilliant as well as philanthropic woman. She was the wife of Judge Samuel Rice, the famous wit and jurist.

Mrs. Dr. Holt was Miss Laura Hall, sister of Hon. Bolling Hall, the noted statesman who gave many brave sons to the Confederate army. Mrs. Laura Pickett, of this city, is her daughter. Her husband, Dr. S. Holt, was the first mayor of Montgomery.

Mrs. James Ware was a Miss Ware, of Columbus, Ga., sister of Mrs. Jane Martin, a noted Confederate worker in the Aid Societies of Georgia. Mrs. Ware's husband, Dr. James Ware, was for a long time an honored druggist of Montgomery.

†Mrs. Wm. Pollard was a Miss Webb, of Virginia, a noted social favorite who gave much of her time and talents to the hospitals and the Memorial Association of Montgomery. Her husband was a brother of Mr. Chas. T. Pollard, President of the first railroad in Alabama.

mously elected: Mrs. Judge Bibb, President; Mrs. Judge Phelan, Vice-President; Mrs. Dr. Baldwin, Secretary; Mrs. E. C. Hannon, Treasurer.

This committee, after suggesting permanent officers, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

1. RESOLVED, That it is the sacred duty of the people of the South to preserve from desecration and neglect the mortal remains of the brave men who fell in her cause, to cherish a grateful recollection of their heroic sacrifices and to perpetuate their memories.

2. RESOLVED, That we earnestly request our countrywomen to unite with us in our efforts to contribute all necessary means to provide a suitable resting place and burial for our noble and heroic dead; that we will not rest our labors until this sacred duty is performed.

3. RESOLVED, That in order to raise funds to carry out the objects expressed in the foregoing resolutions, we constitute ourselves a Society to be styled "The Ladies' Society for the Burial of Deceased Alabama Soldiers," and that we solicit voluntary contributions for the same; and that we will hold in this city on Tuesday, the first day of May next, and annually on the first day of May thereafter, and oftener if deemed expedient, exhibitions consisting of concerts, tableaux, juvenile recitations, songs, suppers, etc., to be regulated and determined by committees to be appointed for that purpose.

4. RESOLVED, That to carry out these plans an Executive Committee shall be appointed, which shall have authority to appoint sub-committees and agents at their discretion.

5. RESOLVED, That the President of this Society, together with the present resident ministers in charge of the different churches of this city and their successors in office, shall constitute a committee for the purpose of keeping and making proper application of the funds raised by this Society.

6. RESOLVED, That any lady can become a member of this Society by registering her name and by paying into the treasury an annual assessment of one dollar.

7. RESOLVED, That all clergymen or ministers of the gospel shall be considered honorary members of this Society.

On motion of Mrs. Dr. Baldwin, the Chair was authorized to appoint an Executive Committee consisting of ten, whereupon the Chair appointed the following ladies: Mrs. Dr. Rambo,

Chairman; Mrs. Jno. Elmore, Mrs. Wm. Pollard, Mrs. Dr. Wilson, Mrs. W. J. Bibb, Mrs. Hausman, Mrs. Mount, Mrs. Bugbee, Mrs. W. B. Bell, Mrs. Fort Hargrove and Mrs. James Ware.*

On motion, the Society adjourned to meet whenever requested by the President.

Thus was formed the Ladies' Society for the Burial of deceased Alabama Soldiers—the direct outcome of the Alabama Historical and Monumental Association—through its active Executive Committee, as has been clearly and systematically shown from authentic records of the time.

The foregoing Constitution and Resolutions as reproduced in *The Mail*, will also be found in the record books of the Memorial Association, which have been kept by its Secretaries since its beginning.

The following report of the Treasurer, Mrs. E. C. Han-
non being the first given immediately after the formation of the "Ladies' Society for the burial of deceased

*It was the earnest desire that a more extended sketch of each member of the nominating and executive committees should be given. The data promised by friends has not arrived at the hour of going to press, and the sketches are reluctantly omitted.

Mrs. James A. Ware is the only one of the original Executive Committee now living in Montgomery. She was the daughter of Judge Wm. S. Stokes, of Georgia. Her mother was Miss Eliza Smith, of Virginia. Her father was originally from Virginia and her ancestors on both sides fought in the Revolutionary war. She was born September 11th, 1822. Miss Stokes married Col. James A. Ware, of Montgomery, and resided on property three miles from the city. This land has been in possession of the family for almost one hundred years, the deeds to the property being written on parchment. Col. J. A. Ware's mother was Miss Judith Anthony, daughter of Mark Anthony, and saw the battle of Gilford's Courthouse. During the war the home of Mrs. Ware was constantly filled with convalescent soldiers and she was a daily visitor to the hospital. She is now almost eighty years old, though one who is privileged to hold delightful converse with this charming white-haired grandmother would never believe it.

Alabama Soldiers," is of deep interest, since it shows that the first money paid into the Association was that received from its charter members. It is as follows :

"The Treasurer, on April 23, reported \$164.50 received from members. Amount of donations, \$138.00."

Another interesting item of information concerning the first money ever turned into this treasury is taken also from the Secretary's book of date April 26, only three days later :

"The Society met with the President, Mrs. Bibb, and a donation of \$167.50 was handed in by Mrs. Taber, from the Hebrew Society."

These are the only official records of the first money paid into the treasury and show that the nucleus of the Memorial Association's funds was that paid into this sacred treasury by the loving, loyal hands of its charter members.

Another proof that the first money of the Memorial Association was that of its charter members, lies in the fact that many who were that day present testify that their initiation fees had been previously decided upon and were taken with them and paid at the initial meeting, April 16, 1866.

Of the lovely women who composed the nominating committee, only one is now living, Mrs. William Johnston, of whom a short sketch has already been given. The hand of time has touched lightly the beautiful face of this mother of the Confederacy. One would not think, to look into the bright eyes and see the tender smile and hear the sweet voice, that seventy-six summers were hers to remember. She talks most interestingly of those days and particularly of the first meeting at the church and of the women whom they that day nominat-

ed. "I think," she said, "we chose our officers wisely. Mrs. B. S. Bibb was an ideal woman for the President, having natural executive ability, augmented by recent experience in the Hospital Association; she was gentle, wise and just; was possessed of wealth and influence and proved herself worthy of so honored a trust.

"That we should have chosen Mrs. Phelan for First Vice President was most natural. No woman worked harder for the formation of the Memorial Association. It seemed that her whole mind, heart and soul were centered in this undertaking. Mrs. Phelan was a remarkable woman—her energy and patriotism and her strength of purpose knew no impediment, and then, too, you must remember, she was the only one of us with two boys still sleeping out on the battlefields.

"Mrs. Baldwin?—Ah, yes, Mrs. Baldwin was indeed lovely, both in person and character. She was talented and broad-minded and worked zealously for the formation of the Association. She, too, had lost a loved son in battle, and though his remains had been removed from the battlefield to our cemetery, it had not stayed the heartache, and, so remembering, she worked for others.

"Then our Treasurer, Mrs. Hannon, was another of God's loveliest. She also had suffered anguish during the battles, for, though she lost none then, yet she had three sons in the war, and for very thankfulness she worked, weeping with the less fortunate whose sons and husbands came not back.

"They were four noble women we chose for our officers that day, and in looking back over those mournful years I can see that the 'Ladies' Society for the Burial of Deceased Alabama Soldiers' made no mistake in the choosing.

"I have not enjoyed anything so much in a long, long time as this little trip back to that eventful year; the figures flit before me clear and distinct, and almost I feel I have been in the sweet presence of the loved of 'auld lang syne.' "

These words of Mrs. Johnston are almost a repetition of words used by Mrs. J. C. Hausman before her death, and practically the same things have been said by others who were that day present, among them being Mrs. James A. Ware of the Executive Committee, and Miss Bettie Bell and Mrs. William Ware.

The name of the Society was soon changed from "The Ladies' Society for the Burial of Deceased Alabama Soldiers," to one more expressive of its purposes, and certainly more in sympathy with the rules of Euphony—"The Ladies' Memorial Association."

The exact date at which the name of the Association was changed is not given. Unfortunately, some of the records of the Society have been lost. That the books of the Secretaries have been as systematically kept and preserved as they are is cause for wonder. In those days little attention was given to minute details, and the methodical club woman, with her parliamentary methods, was undreamed of, and our blessed mothers of the Confederacy, mindful of weightier things, knew not the glorious history they were making.

The first use of the words "Memorial Association," which attracted the attention of this Society, came through the press of the city in a letter from General Lee to the Virginia "Ladies' Memorial Association for Confederate Dead," as follows :

STONEWALL JACKSON.

On the 10th inst. the third anniversary of the death of Virginia's illustrious son, Stonewall Jackson, was observed by the

people of Richmond, in commemoration of the dead warriors of the noble Army of Northern Virginia. In honor of the occasion, there was a very general suspension of business, and the streets wore a Sabbath aspect. Troops of ladies and children and men might have been seen during the early morning having wreaths and baskets of flowers, wending their way on foot to the cemeteries, and all the available vehicles were busily engaged carrying heavy crowds of citizens to the same destination. General R. E. Lee, having been invited to attend and participate in the ceremonies of the day, not being able to be present, the following simple but beautiful letter from the great Captain of the Confederate hosts, was read by Rev. Mr. Price:

LEXINGTON, May 5, 1866.

MRS. WM. COULLING:

Dear Madam—I am very much obliged to the ladies of the “Memorial Association for Confederate Dead” for the invitation to attend the inaugural celebration of their Society, on the 10th inst. It would be most grateful to my feelings to unite in the Society formed for so noble an object, but it will be impossible for me to do so. The graves of Confederate dead will always be green in my recollection. With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT E. LEE.

The words were next brought to the Society’s notice through a letter of Mrs. Meem, of Virginia, in regard to Alabama’s dead in Virginia, which was presented to the “Committee for Proper Application of Funds,” on June 8th.

The first use of the name “Memorial Association” in connection with Montgomery’s Society was found December 22nd, ’66. This came through The Mail from Dr. Samuel K. Cox, in an article headed “Ladies’ Memorial Association” (of Montgomery), which gave an account of how certain funds had been expended. However, no change of the name is recorded in the books of the Secretary until 1874.

All things point to its having been changed about December 22nd, 1866, the time of Dr. Cox's report from the Society's "Committee for proper application of funds," of which he was corresponding Secretary.

The day after the formation of this Society, April 17th, there appeared another important notice in the papers :

The 26th of April has been mentioned by many of the newspapers as a day to be set apart as the sad anniversary for our Confederate dead. It is suggested by some of the ladies of Montgomery that it be observed with appropriate ceremonies here ; that the ladies upon that day decorate with evergreens and flowers the last resting places of the Confederates who sleep in our city cemetery, and celebrate it as the all souls' day of the South. This will accord with a general movement—principally of the ladies—throughout the Southern States, and will meet with the cordial approval and hearty co-operation of all patriotic hearts of Montgomery. Who will suggest a definite plan of proceedings? Act at once, that our observance of the day may be worthy of the occasion and inaugurate an anniversary that will live through coming ages. Let us prove to the world that those who so nobly gave up their lives for us, did not die all in vain ; that their names and deeds are ever dear, their memories ever sacred.

—Montgomery Advertiser, April 17, '66.

The Mail, on April 21st, gives also a very important notice to the ladies :

"THE LADIES AT THE CEMETERY.

"The ladies of the city, in concert with the ladies of many of the Southern cities, will meet at our cemetery on the 26th inst. for the purpose of decorating the graves and perpetuating the memory of our fallen braves who are there interred.

"The ladies are requested to assemble at the city cemetery this morning and to have with them utensils for improving and repairing the graves of the Confederate soldiers. We learn that it is estimated that we have buried in our cemetery about 1,000 (one thousand) soldiers, and that every Southern State is there represented."

The Advertiser gave a similar notice for the ladies, in which the word "utensils" was also used. Miss Bettie Bell, whose mother, Mrs. W. B. Bell, was appointed on the Executive Committee when the Society was formed, gives a most amusing account of the consternation of the ladies when they saw, "and have with them utensils for improving and repairing the graves." Somehow these ladies of the old regime seemed to think that the noble editors should have been more fastidious in the selection of words for the insertion of their sacred notice.

So busy were the ladies with preparations for the May Day celebration that very few answered this call—the only ones "bringing their utensils with them" being Ellis Phelan, Miss Bettie Bell* and Misses Mary and Priscilla Phelan. The next meeting at the cemetery was more fruitful of "utensils" and results.

*Any history of the first years of the Memorial Association would be incomplete without especial mention of Miss Bettie Bell. Miss Bell is descended from a long line of illustrious ancestors, some of whom have been mentioned in the preceding sketch of her mother, Mrs. W. B. Bell. Although a school girl during the war, Miss Bettie was one of the most enthusiastic workers at the sewing circles, the hospital, and later the Memorial Association. She is the only living member of her immediate family, though many close relatives still reside in Montgomery. She lives still in the home of her childhood. The home is smaller now, for part of it has been removed and sold, with some of the grounds; but to Miss Bettie, as she sits there alone and dreams of the beautiful sad past, when the chivalry and beauty of this Southern city flitted through its portals, when the wounded soldiers passed in and out to love and to bless the names of those within, the old house is still the same. Interesting and thrilling are Miss Bettie's reminiscences of those days, and most remarkable is the correctness of her memory. In verifying dates, initials and statements of friends whose memory has been consulted, her exactness has been marvelous. Miss Bell was the third Secretary of the Memorial Association, having taken the place of Mrs. Hilliard, who left for another State.

Meanwhile the preparations for May Day Festival grew in interest and enthusiasm. On April 18th the President of the Society, Mrs. Judge Bibb, through the Society's able Secretary, Mrs. Dr. Baldwin,* published a circular letter. The Mail's copy is as follows :

MONTGOMERY, ALA., April 16, 1866.

DEAR MADAM: As President of the Ladies' Society for the burial of Alabama Soldiers, I write to request your aid and assistance in a May-day offering for deceased Alabama soldiers, who are now lying on the various battlefields of the war. We wish to raise funds with which to give suitable Christian burial to our brave, noble and lamented martyrs, and to effect this we propose to have an "offering" on the first day of May next from the children, young ladies and matrons consisting of recitations, songs, music, etc., suitable to the occasion, and at night a concert and supper, which you are respectfully requested to attend, and to which you are earnestly invited to contribute. We believe that every woman in Alabama will feel it not only her duty but her privilege to lend a helping hand to the success of this sacred cause, the removal from desecration and neglect of the mortal remains of those who so heroically fought and died for them. Articles such as hams, fresh meat, fowls, cream, butter, eggs, vegetables, fruit, etc., will be thankfully received and faithfully appropriated. Such articles as may be sent by the Montgomery & West Point R. R. may be addressed to the care of W. H. Pollard, Esq.; those sent by the Alabama & Florida R. R. may be addressed to the care of S. G. Jones, Esq.; and those sent to the city in wagons may be delivered at the dry goods store of Ware &

*Apologies are here made to the school of critics who protest against such liberties with the Queen's English as "Mrs. Judge", "Mrs. Dr.," etc. This form of designation for distinguished ladies of that date seems to have been universal—in all the papers was it used to such an extent that Mrs. Judge Bibb, Mrs. Dr. Baldwin and Mrs. Judge Phelan would scarcely have been known by their initials. It is one of the peculiarities of the epoch, as interesting as the use of the word "pious," so prevalent among all writers of that period.

Gowan, on Market street, and at the grocery store of Price, Francis & Co., Commerce street.

MRS. DR. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

MRS. S. BIBB,
President.

That every body was busy and enthusiastic, witness the following interesting notices from newspaper files:

"THE DEAD OFFERING.

"The ladies of the city hold daily meetings and are systematically perfecting their arrangements, etc., for the grand May day 'offering' to the Alabama dead. Preparations on a gigantic scale are being made in each department, and we have no doubt of the complete success of the ladies in their sacred endeavors."—(Mail, April 21, 1866.)

"The ladies of Montgomery who have in preparation the May Day Festival and Concert for the proper burial of Alabama soldiers desire to return thanks to Messrs. Diaz and Gillett for their offer of theatre for the concert and tableaux, to Mr. George Sayre for his offer of halls for use of children's festival, to Mr. Cram for offer of lights, to Mr. Giovanni and Mr. Benedict for confectioneries. The spirit of those gentlemen will doubtless be emulated by others whose hearts are enlisted in the benevolent project, etc."—(Mail, April 21, 1866.)

"COMMENDABLE.

"We notice that many of our exchanges from this and adjoining states are urging upon the people of their respective counties to follow the example of the ladies of our city in their noble efforts to provide a more appropriate burial for our fallen heroes. We doubt not the approaching May day 'offering' of the ladies of Montgomery will live for years, not only in the history of the times, but in the hearts of all lovers of the heroic and humane."—(Mail, April 22, 1866.)

"THE LADIES' MAY DAY OFFERING.

"Every lady who is willing to contribute to the 'May Day Offering' for the burial of the Alabama dead is respectfully and earnestly requested to register at once her contributions to either one of the following ladies who constitute the special

committee for dinner and supper. It is impossible to call on every family in the city, and as time is so short it is very important that the amount of supplies should be known: Mesdames Smythe, Gerald, Yancy, McGehee, Dr. Hill, Wm. Ray, Murphy, Watt, Peter Mastin, Garrison, Myres, Weil, Watts, Dr. Tom Taylor, Purifoy, Whiting, James Terry, W. C. Bibb, Kinny, Hopper, Micou, Ponder, Troy, Arrington, Petrie, Harrell, Henry Lee, J. D. Campbell.

"The Executive Committee and ladies of the Society for the burial of Alabama dead return thanks through Misses Jones and Fraser to the young men of the 'Literary Club' for the kind tender of their services. The ladies will be very glad to have their assistance at the halls on Monday and Tuesday. Mrs. Dr. Semple,* Chairman of Decorating Committee, will be very much obliged for all help rendered her by the young gentlemen of the city not connected with the Club. The Decorating Committee meet at Estelle and Concert Halls every morning at 9 o'clock, commencing Monday morning, the 23d. The ladies of the Society return thanks to Mr. T. J. Shaw and accept with pleasure his services for the sale of tickets and management of the front part of theatre."—(Mail, April 22, 1866.)

"OFFERING.

"The ladies are busily engaged in their various departments making extensive and complete arrangements for their grand May day offering to the Alabama dead. The halls are being

*Mrs. Dr. Semple was the daughter of Joel White and Sarah Hopkins. Her maternal grandparents were Steven Hopkins and Bettie Mayhew, of Nova Scotia, Halifax. Her father, Hon. Joel White, was born in Rutland, Vermont, January 11, 1808. At the age of nineteen he went to New York city and there met Miss Sarah Hopkins, of Nova Scotia, Halifax, whom he subsequently married. In 1831 they came South to Tuscaloosa, where Mrs. Semple (Irene White) was born. In 1847 Mr. White brought his family to Montgomery, where he continued his famous book store. Miss Irene White here married Dr. Edward A. Semple, who was the honored Surgeon of Third Alabama during the war. Dr. Semple died in 1875, Mrs. Semple surviving until only a few months since. She was one of the most prominent and energetic workers of the May Day Festival and the Memorial Association.

beautifully decorated and the amateurs are rehearsing for the concert and tableaux.”—(Mail, April 24.)

“NOTICE TO THE LADIES’ HEBREW CONGREGATION KAHL
MONTGOMERY.

“The ladies of the above named congregation are requested to meet this (Tuesday) afternoon at 5 p. m. at Synagogue for the purpose of taking measures to render their aid in behalf of the approaching May offering. Full attendance is requested.”
—(Mail, April 24, 1866.)

It is pleasing here to see that the living poor were not forgotten. An editorial in The Mail of the 26th says, in part:

“Nor are we unmindful of the duties we owe to the living. The cries of suffering humanity have aroused in our breasts the deepest sympathy. Our citizens have already answered the fearful cry for bread by giving daily to the poor. Not many days since a fund of \$5,000 was raised at Montgomery for the poor of DeKalb and Marshall. Besides this sum our merchants have responded to the individual appeal of the needy. The Freedmen’s Bureau, ably assisted by Colonel Cruikshank, has extended aid in all cases where the county officers have made proper return. In addition to this, the Legislature has authorized the issue of bonds the proceeds of sales of which are intended for distribution among poor of each county in proportion to their necessities. We have assurance that these bonds will be taken up by citizens and by men of means of Montgomery. The cities of the North-west are also responding most liberally to the appeals of Judge Wyeth. As much as \$20,000 have been collected by the exertions of that gentleman alone. The Baltimore Fair has just closed and deposited in bank \$150,000 to be distributed among the poor of the Southern States. Thus we find exerted for the relief of the living, private contributions, merchants and other public appeals from benevolent gentlemen, which have been met by princely answers, beyond the State, Baltimore Fair, State bonds and Government aid. All of these sources, if properly directed, will accomplish much good. Still, we must not remit our labors until the harvest is over. In addition to what is done

for the living, we are now endeavoring, by means of the ladies' May Day offering to respond in a becoming manner to the appeals of Colonel McGavock of Franklin, of Mrs. Dr. Boyd and and the ladies of Winchester, and of others to come up and bury our dead. The strong arm of the Federal Government has been extended to prevent the plough-share from destroying the graves of the Federal soldiers, but there is no arm except that of affection to prevent the places which once knew the Confederate hero from knowing him no more forever."

The following pathetic incident of the Baltimore Fair mentioned in the above as having contributed \$150,000 to the destitute of the South, shows with what zeal the fair women of that city worked, many of whom, deprived of other means to help, took their diamonds and other precious jewels and laid them on the altar of love:

"The brightest page in the history of the Monumental City has been written, and the curtain has fallen on the grandest and noblest charity of the age; but in many a hamlet, town and city of the South and in the holiest depths of the Southern heart the fair women of Baltimore are blessed and enshrined. Their noble endeavors will ever be linked with their flowing gratitude and cherished recollections of our people. Unprecedented and grand as was the great Fair and its results, it is sad to know that it has given more precious offerings still to the cause of the suffering and distressed. Two of the fairest and loveliest of her daughters, Misses Hoffman and Myers, forgetting that there are limits to the indulgence of the highest of human impulses, have died from the effects of exposure and incessant exertion. On the morning after the Fair one was found dead in bed. Their sad but glorious death furnishes a silent but eloquent rebuke to those who, engrossed with more selfish cares, heed not the appeals of the hungry and distressed. They have done their maker's work and have gone to receive from His hands Heaven's recompense to the 'cheerful giver.'"

On April 27 the precise object of the May Day offering is explained in these words:

"We find that a misapprehension exists in some quarters as

to the precise object of the May Day offering. It is thought by some that the intention is to bring home all the Alabama dead and bury them in Alabama and raise a monument over them. This is not the object. Such an undertaking would be impracticable and is not contemplated. The precise object is this: To raise the necessary funds to have the remains of our dead soldiers (Alabama's dead) collected together either in public burial grounds contiguous to the several great battlefields where they now lie scattered and neglected and where all traces of them will soon be lost; to provide by donation and otherwise a small plot of ground and make a specific burial place for Alabama's dead on or near the battlefields and there bury them."

—Mail, April 27, 1866.

Then came notices of our first Memorial Day, thirty-five years ago :

"TRIBUTE TO OUR DEAD.

"Yesterday the ladies of our city met at the cemetery to strew flowers over the graves of our Confederate dead. The day was set apart in many of our sister cities for this purpose and the occasion was certainly a most sacred and interesting one. Here in Montgomery those sepulchres number by the hundreds. The Augusta Constitutionalist truly remarks that side by side they are ranged in rows like a line of battle, for just as these men stood in action do they now repose in death. From the East and from the West, by the stroke of battle and by the ravage of disease, they have been gathered one by one to the last array they shall ever present—that long, that grim, that terrible outstretching line of mounds, that in sunshine or in shade—whether the snows come or the spring dews twinkle—is never to be broken till the roll-call of the Resurrection brings all humanity in review before the God of Battles."

—Mail, 27th April, '66.

"LADIES AND THE 26TH OF APRIL.

"It becomes our pleasing duty to-day to record the touching act of the devotion of the ladies of Montgomery to the lamented dead who lie asleep within the limits of our city cemetery. On yesterday they gathered in numbers, according to previous appointment, at the cemetery, re-touched and re-decorated the

grave of every soldier therein interred, planted and strewed them with flowers and performed such other offices as their fancies suggested, or as seemed necessary. This was in accord with a suggestion coming first, we believe, from the sister State of Georgia, and quickly and heartily seconded by the ladies not only of Montgomery, but of the South generally.”*

Montgomery Advertiser, April 27, '66.

“NOT FORGOTTEN.

“While the large number of ladies were engaged on the 26th inst. in strewing the honored graves of the Confederate dead with flowers in our cemetery, the unpretending slab which covers the immortal remains of William L. Yancey† was not

*Here more than half a column in the files of the Advertiser has been cut out. The culprit who so ruthlessly destroyed so important a record should himself have the misfortune to some day try his hand at history and find valuable data destroyed. Being told that files of The Advertiser of 1866 could be found at the court house, search was made for this missing part there, but that date was not on file. Another attempt was made to get the papers of that date from private persons, but alas! the very date most needed was not there. Perhaps some one reading these pages may have among old papers the date—April 27, 1866. If so, he would do his country's history a kindness by taking it to The Advertiser office.

†A beautiful granite cenotaph now marks this last resting place of the South's most illustrious orator; yet more beautiful are the words and sentiment chiseled into the stone, as indeed they were chiseled into his life.

The inscription reads :

Sacred
To the Memory
of
Wm. Lowndes Yancey,
Born at Shoals of Ogeechee, Warren Co., Ga.,
August 10th, 1814.
Died Near Montgomery, Ala., July 27th, 1863.

On one side is what might be termed his political creed :

“Called to public life
In the most critical hour of his country's fortune,
He was a man whose love of truth,
Devotion to right, simple integrity
And reverence for manly honor,
Made him a leader among men.

forgotten by our fair friends, and his tablet was beautifully decorated with sweet bouquets, wreaths, chaplets, etc. Generations to come will recall with emotions of pride the noble and pleasing task performed by the ladies of Montgomery, on the 26th of April, 1866. Verily, actions speak louder when words are silent."—(Mail, April 28, '66.)

The thrilling editorial on "The 26th of April," by Major W. W. Screws,* in the Advertiser of the 25th

Virtue gave him strength,
 Courage upheld his convictions,
 Heroism inspired him with fearlessness.
 His sense of responsibility
 Never consulted popularity,
 Nor did his high position claim homage
 Save on the ground of worth,
 Justified in all his deeds.
 For his country's sake
 He loved the South;
 For the sake of the South
 He loved his country."

On the other side is his religious creed:

Believing in God,
 He trusted in Christ;
 And the fervent prayer
 Of his life
 Growing to its fuller years
 Ever was,
 That Faith, Hope and Charity,
 Humanly three,
 Divinely One,
 Might have his heart
 As their
 Hallowed Home.

*The name of Major William Wallace Screws has been identified with all that is noble, great and good in the city of Montgomery since that day in his young manhood when he cast his fortunes with this people. He has never failed to lend to every good cause his earnest help and many a noble undertaking owes to him its success. His father, Benjamin Screws, was born in North Carolina on November 8th, 1811. His mother was a Miss Drake, who was also born in North Carolina, the date of her birth being December 1st, 1818. Genealogy shows that among her ancestors was Sir Francis Drake. Her father, James Drake, was killed in the Texan war of independence, fighting gallantly under Sam Houston. Though now in her

of April, is so replete with historic facts that it is given in full :

"Tomorrow one year ago the formal surrender of the last organized army of the Confederate States took place. With hearts full of gloomy forebodings for the future the veterans of the grand old Army of Northern Virginia bade adieu to their beloved chieftain on the 9th of the same month and turned their faces homeward after a career of glory (unsuccessful though it was) that will be recorded in glowing terms by the impartial historian of the future. That the scarcely less glorious army of General Johnston would have to follow its example was rendered certain inasmuch as the combined forces of Grant and Sherman were marching against it. With that surrender went out all hope of a successful termination of the war on the part of the South, and all desire for further resistance to the authority of the United States disappeared. The Southern soldier, with honor unstained, took his parole and it has been faithfully observed from that time until the present moment. The 26th of April may justly be considered the grave of the Southern Confederacy, and without attaching to it any political significance, the women of the South have formed the beautiful idea of making it the 'all souls' day,' and decking with flowers the graves of those who fell in our long and bloody struggle. The idea is worthy of those whose pure hearts and unflagging devotion prompted it. That heart must be dead to all the feelings of humanity that would object to the ladies of the South showing by this simple and touching act that they venerate the memory of their fathers, husbands, brothers and friends, who gave up their lives in a cause we all believe just. It is one of the striking passages in the history of the Saviour, that Mary and

eighty-fifth year, Mrs. Benjamin Screws, Sr., is still hale and hearty, the life and light of her family. She lives in Clayton, Ala., with her daughter, Mrs. Jere N. Williams. Major Screws was himself a gallant officer in the war between the States, participating in the great struggles of the Army of Northern Virginia. Captain Benjamin H. Screws, of Montgomery, is a younger brother of Major Screws. He was a brave officer in the war and now modestly wears the palm of oratory as the most eloquent of all Alabamians left to celebrate the courage and sacrifice of their comrades.

Martha were the last at the cross and the first at the sepulchre—and this unconquered sympathy for misfortune and devotion in adversity is still a marked characteristic of female character. It will be exhibited to-morrow when the fair ones of the land will repair to the different burial grounds where lie the Confederate dead and pay this beautiful tribute to their memory. There are many voids in the households of the South; many a gallant youth is buried far from home and kindred, and how pleasing the thought to absent friends that

‘When the flowers bloom in gladness,
And spring birds rejoice,’

fair stranger hands with fresh garlands will pay them a last sad tribute of affection. Every State in the South is probably represented in the cemetery of this city, and it is but meet and proper to devote one day in the year to the memory of those who gave up all for the defense of a principle dear to every Southern heart. On every field of strife have fallen the Confederate braves, and those near to us should be treated with a maternal tenderness. The proposition to observe the 26th day of this month is a sublimely beautiful and touching thought and in keeping with that which has won the women of the South so bright a page in the annals of history. No matter what may have been the differences of opinion produced by the late conflict, no one can doubt the purity of the motives by which the Confederate soldier was actuated, nor the unparalleled heroism with which he contended so long as there was a ray of hope. They failed, ’tis true; but as ‘night wrapped her sable mantle around them, fate pinned it with a bright star;’ and it was written of ancient Rome, ‘thy fall was worthy of thy greatness.’ In paying honor to the dead there can be no disloyalty, and we are glad that the ladies are about to inaugurate a custom so appropriate. Visit their graves in the beautiful spring time, shed tears of remembrance and strew their graves with evergreens and flowers—else will

‘A thousand glorious actions that might claim
Triumphant laurels and immortal fame,
Confused in clouds of glorious actions lie,
And troops of heroes undistinguished die.’”

No further mention of April 26th, or of the proceed-

ings in Montgomery of this day, are given in the press, but the frequent mention in the papers that no "disloyalty should be attached to this idea," that it was a movement "principally by the ladies of the South," and "that heart must be dead to all the feelings of humanity which would object to the ladies of the South showing by this simple act that they venerate the memory of their fathers, brothers and friends," shows that some trepidation did exist in the minds of the thoughtful. In fact, the press chronicled later several insults to the ladies of Southern cities on those first memorial days. One at our very door in our sister State, Georgia, created some trouble and no end of unfavorable comment both North and South. As the South was misrepresented in many northern papers regarding this incident, the following from one of the leading dailies relating the facts is of real value :

"When the negroes of Richmond at the suggestion, doubtless, of the agents of the Freedman's Bureau, stole the flowers that the loving hands of the Confederate women had strewed upon the graves of their honored dead and transferred them to the graves of the Northern soldiers, many Republican journals published the fact, not only without censure, but with an implication of praise, as though it were upon the whole a rather clever performance. And when the attempt of a parcel of Northern school-mistresses at Augusta, Ga., who inspired a motley crowd of negroes and mulattos to travesty the oblation to the Confederate dead in the cemetery of that city, was put down by the civil authorities, Republican journals raised a howl of pious and patriotic indignation over Southern insults to the graves of Union soldiers. Even the Tribune swells the caunting chorus of these pseudo-humanitarians and denounces Generals Brannon and Tillson because these officers of the Federal army refused to over-ride the civil authorities and public decency in behalf of the vagaries of the school mistresses and their black pets. Did it not occur to the Tribune that if officers so high in position as Generals Brannon and Tillson

discountenanced the enterprise of these Northern women, there must have been something objectionable in it? And is there not abundant material in the letter of the Tribune's correspondent to sustain the officers? The facts as published by the Tribune itself are simply these: A set of Northern women, who have gone down to Augusta to teach the negroes there, and to insult the vanquished, got up a procession, avowedly to do honor to the graves of the Federal soldiers who are buried in that city, but really to mock the Southern women, who had been decorating the graves of their own kindred and heroic defenders two days before. This procession was composed of these Northern women, the negroes and the agents and hangers-on of the Freedman's Bureau. The people of Augusta knowing the object of the movement, and keenly feeling the insult and wrong that was being put upon them, appealed to the civil authorities to prevent these people as far as the law would permit from desecrating the graves of the Confederate soldiers. The means for doing this were furnished by a rule of the cemetery which forbids colored persons from entering its precincts except as servants. The Mayor, with the sanction of Generals Brannan and Tillson, mildly enforced this rule by declaring to the procession that every white person was at liberty to enter and to do honor to the graves of the United States soldiers, but that no negro should enter except as a servant bearing flowers with which to decorate graves. Learning that this was the determination of the Mayor, and that he was supported by the United States military authorities, the whites in the procession, rather than submit to the exclusion of any one of their colored friends, marched away with these from the cemetery, and so the affair was ended. There was neither rioting nor bloodshed nor violence; no dishonor to a Federal soldier nor any disrespect to the flag of the Union. And yet the Tribune makes this affair the subject of violent denunciation and the Commercial Advertiser, of coarse and unfeeling jesting. Now, it is all very well to talk about paying tributes of respect to the memory of the Federal dead and all that; but no one knows better than the Tribune that reverence for the soldiers whose graves they proposed to decorate was not in the hearts of the organizers of the movement. Their object was to ridicule the women and insult the entire white population of Augusta. One word in

conclusion. The women of the South were under no obligation whatever to decorate the graves of the Federal soldiers. These men were not their kindred nor of their blood; they were not friends, but enemies; they had gone to their graves reeking with the blood of Southern men, slain in defence of their liberty and their honor, their wives and firesides. But for all that, the Southern women did decorate the graves of the Federal dead. Unlike the Radicals, their animosity did not seek to pass beyond the grave. In the awful presence of death they recognized the claims of a common humanity, and they strewed with flowers the graves of the men who had come among them only to desolate and destroy. It was an act of magnanimity too lofty to be appreciated by the small-souled detractors of the women of the South, but it will be another leaf in the crown of that noble army of martyrs."

It is a matter of history, too, that in North Carolina some of the Memorial Associations had to use much prudence and diplomacy in order to carry out their plans for decorating the graves of Confederate soldiers.

"In Raleigh, N. C., when the ladies first sought to decorate the soldiers' graves, they were warned not to go in a body else they would be fired upon. Hence, singly and flower-laden they went to the cemetery, and at the end of the day set aside for the work a floral tribute rested on the grave of each fallen hero."

An amusing incident which occurred at our own cemetery here in Montgomery those first days of the 26th of April illustrates how very careful the South needs must be at that crucial time. The incident is given on request by Mrs. Mary P. Watt, who from her girlhood was one of the most enthusiastic workers at the Sewing Societies and the Ladies' Memorial Association. The short narration is given as contributed in her own words:

"In that spring Montgomery was yet a United States garrison, with camps of Yankee soldiers, infantry and

cavalry in every direction, and seen at every turn in control of our dear town. On the 26th of April of that year the skies were sun-kissed and the flowers made to blossom with unusual splendor and beauty. At our home they seemed never to have been so perfect or lovely nor in such endless variety. In my youthful ardor for the day's decoration I selected from them the pure white rose—Lamarque—and the red, red rose—the Giant of Battle—the straggling violets here and there, and the star-shaped blossoms of the White Spirea, and made them into a flower—Confederate—flag about twelve inches long and eight inches wide, with staff of green, making the bars of the red and white roses, the field of the blue violets and stars of White Spirea. It was a perfect representation in spring's sweet flowers of our 'furled banner.' Not dreaming I was doing anything amiss or imprudent or disloyal in making a boquet that would fade before the morrow, I placed it upon the grass mound—a thing of beauty. But lo and behold! several Yankees in uniform on gaily caparisoned horses dashed up and with lowering looks of threatening trouble at so lawless an act as displaying the hated flag of a fallen foe, sent terror and dismay to the older people there.

"Judge Bibb, Mr. E. C. Hannon and others went to my father and said, 'Your daughter has been reckless enough to display a Confederate flag.' He and my dear mother came to me in deep concern and distress. 'Oh, my child, why did you do it?' I said in my wrath and indignation, 'It is absurd to be accused of treason for making a boquet of flowers that will perish and fade before to-morrow's sun.' My reason could not accept such an over-strained sense of prudence. But alas! the last I saw of my dear flag of flowers, it

was shrouded in Judge Bibb's white handkerchief and laid away in a close carriage. I was indignant.

"We have much to be thankful for in our re-united country, when men's minds are free from passion and prejudice, that at the present time we can display any or all of the three different Confederate flags on any public occasion without treason and the fear of arrest."

These incidents are given not to break afresh the healing wound, but to show a most interesting phase of our country's history. Sad chronicles of facts they are, but we should, and do, at this hour bear in mind that only a few of the nobler element of our enemy were with us then; nor surely did even they dream the truth, nor did they understand.

As a great sun-burst from behind the clouds, as some spiced balm of healing, come to us now the words of President Wm. McKinley, when in Atlanta he urged that the graves of Confederate as well as Northern soldiers be the care of our re-united government.

So, "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before," we go back with lighter hearts to the beautiful story of eighteen hundred and sixty-six. For meanwhile the May Day Festival hour grew near and expectation ran high.

CHAPTER V.

Several days beforehand the full program of the Festival was published. The following is the exact copy:

THEATRE.

THE LADIES' OFFERING TO BURY THE ALABAMA DEAD.

TWO MAY DAY FESTIVALS ON THE
1ST AND 2ND DAYS OF MAY.

PROGRAMME.

Matinee, Tuesday, May 1st, 11 o'clock a. m.—"Children's Offering," consisting of Concert and Tableaux.

Tuesday Night at 8 o'clock, Ladies' Grand Tableaux.

GRAND CONCERT.

Wednesday night, Ladies' Grand Concert, assisted by Mad. Balini and Prof. Gnospelius.

AT CONCERT AND ESTELLE HALLS.

Lunch will be set at Concert Hall on Tuesday from 11 a. m. to 3 p. m.

Tickets, \$1.00. Strawberries, Ices and Coffee Extra.

The Performance each evening to commence at 8 o'clock.

Sale of secured seats for Concert and Tableaux combined will commence on Friday, April 29th, at 9 o'clock a. m., at Shaw's Southern Photograph Gallery (Market Street). Secured seats for the single Festival can only be secured on the day of the performance. Tickets purchased from any member of the committee will be received for secured seats as cash.

Price of admission to all parts of the house, \$1.00. Reserved seats, fifty cents extra. Children admitted to each exhibition for fifty cents each. Each concert ticket sold will be received at the door for either matinee or concert.

G. T. SHAW, Manager.

The following gentlemen are requested to act as managers to assist the ladies in their May Day Offering on the 1st and 2nd prox. Badges will be found at Concert Hall on Tuesday, May 1st, at 9 o'clock: Judge Geo. Goldthwaite, Judge B. S. Bibb, Dr. Wm. O. Baldwin, Dr. J. G. W. Steedman; J. Hausman, Esq.; J. Faber, Esq.; Col. Joseph Hodgson, Col. Jack Thorington; G. L. Mount, Esq.; Dr. Jas. L. Ware; General J. H. Clanton; General J. T. Holtzclaw; Dr. E. A. Semple; Wm. H. Pollard, Esq.; Ex-Governor T. H. Watts; H. Strassburger, Esq.; H. West, Esq.; D. T. Troy, Esq.

Found also in this date was the following entertaining and deserved compliment to our Hebrew citizens:

It is with unfeigned pleasure and admiration that we hear of the generous enthusiasm with which this large class of useful citizens are co-operating with our ladies in their highly praiseworthy efforts to raise funds for the purpose as set forth in the approaching May Day Festival. The ladies were cordially invited to join the organization, to which they promptly responded and have gone to work with a vim which is an earnest of their high appreciation of the noble objects in contemplation. We learn that the ladies have been divided into committees, and each are moving in the discharge of their respective duties with such energy, industry and zeal that commands our highest admiration. Money, provisions and delicacies of every variety are being accumulated in such profusion as to prove them an indispensable auxiliary in the patriotic work in which all our ladies are so intensely engaged in its successful accomplishment.

It might be deemed invidious to mention any names more prominent than others, but we can not forego the pleasure of giving to the public the names of two, Mesdames F—— and R——, who, upon receiving their commissions to operate in the "greenback" department, sallied forth with the intention of making a "raid" upon the strong boxes of their liegelords

and male friends generally, and such was the vigor of their assault that all were forced to capitulate and disgorge upon such terms as the ladies prescribed, which we learn was to fork over the lion's share of the "cash on hand," the defeated begging as a condition of the surrender that their visits might in future more closely assimilate to those of angels—few and far between.

May the future of these worthy ladies be prosperous and happy, and to the male portion of our Jewish friends the thanks of all the friends of the cause are due. This highly respectable class of our community is ever ready to bestow liberally on all worthy objects."—(Mail, April 28th, 1866.)

On the morning of May 1st these papers gave the ladies conducting the Festival a last glowing advertisement, the Mail ending as follows:

"This memorial offering is for a practical purpose, not for something visionary. It is for Alabama to do for her sons what other states are doing for theirs. The following from the Nashville Union will show what is being done upon one battlefield, and what may be done upon other fields:

"We had the satisfaction a few days since of visiting the beautiful grounds near our neighboring town of Franklin so generously donated by Col. McGavock as a cemetery for the Confederate dead who fell in the sanguinary and ever memorable battle near that place on the 29th day of November, 1864. The beauty of the conception as shown in the arrangement and design is only equalled by the elevated sentiment and generosity of spirit which prompted Col. McGavock to the work in which, with the co-operation of others, he was so zealously engaged. Distanced about one mile from the village of Franklin, this cemetery, when completed, will afford a pleasant drive or walk from that place to the numberless persons who, through years to come, will seek as pilgrim shrines these graves of departed heroes, kindred friends, who, in defense of what they and we regard as the cause of liberty, died as nobly as ever men died and whose names have ever been perpetuated in history and cherished in song. Passing from the town in a southeasterly direction the road leads through a large and beautiful grove of stately trees, lit sentinels for the approach of

this sacred place. The cemetery of Confederate dead adjoins the private burial grounds of the resident family and is within short distance of the large and handsome mansion of the proprietor of the place. Instead of separate graves they are marshalled in the order somewhat of platoons, fifteen in each row, with their respective head and foot boards nicely finished and lettered. These rows extend for some distance on either hand with an avenue between of sufficient width to afford convenient walk or drive. The interments have been so arranged as to bring the respective dead of each state together, thereby heightening interest of general plan as well as adding to the convenience of those who may come in search of the precise spot where repose the remains of some special object of affection. Between the ground of the dead of different states, squares have been reserved for monumental or such other purposes as kindred and friends at some future time may consider appropriate in commemorating their virtues and in attesting the respect that is due their memory. The whole is to be handsomely ornamented with evergreens and flowers and placed under a suitable enclosure. The work of re-interment, though far advanced, is not completed. Upwards of 700 have been removed. Of this number 71 were from Arkansas, 92 from Texas, 129 from Missouri, 166 from Tennessee, and 240 from Mississippi."

"It will be observed that not one is from Alabama. The reason is, that Alabama has heretofore done nothing to assist Col. McGavock in his work of love. The ladies of Montgomery hope to-day to remedy the neglect."—(Mail.)

It was about this time that the following, in this connection, appeared in the Advertiser:

"Through the kindness of that noble gentleman, Col. Jno. McGavock, of Franklin, who without waiting to be prompted but anticipating all that under such trying circumstances a parent would naturally desire to have performed, the remains of Lieut. Jno. Porter, eldest son of Judge B. F. Porter, who fell leading Company N, 29th Mississippi Volunteers over the entrenchments at Franklin, were identified, exhumed and forwarded to Greenville, Ala., where they were buried on Sunday, April 1st. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of citizens, and a most eloquent and impressive sermon preached

by the pastor of the Baptist church, the Rev. Mr. Hawthorn. It is due Col. McGavock to say that the parents and friends of the noble and patriotic young men who died at Franklin owe him a lasting debt of gratitude for his generous action in collecting and giving a burial place in his cemetery to the bones of the victims of that battlefield which have not been removed to their homes. With the recollection of their fate will be associated the liberal and magnanimous conduct of this generous Tennessean."



CHAPTER VI.

At last the long-looked-for hour arrived, the great May Day Festival began. Such an outpouring of enthusiastic and patriotic love surely had never before been witnessed at any time or in any clime. The refined and cultured, the chivalric and brave, the once rich, the now poor; wives and mothers, yesterday proud in the great love of noble husbands and gallant sons, to-day widowed and alone; once strong and brilliant men, now maimed and helpless; innocent little children, their young hearts sorrow-laden; fair young maidens whose gay lips belied the unconfessed heart-break—yet see them! From devastated plantations and farms, from suburbs and from city homes they came bringing their all and laying it on the altar of Southern bravery. What nation under Heaven ever gave so grand a picture to lure the magic brush of art or charm the living eyes of love? But the story of that gift of sacrificial love is best told by the patriotic pens of the day:

“THE LADIES’ OFFERING—FIRST DAY.

The Living Remember the Dead. Scenes, Incidents, etc.

“The ladies of Montgomery yesterday, in their offering to Alabama’s dead soldiers, added one really bright page to the history of the times, and by their heartfelt devotion and indefatigable endeavors in their “labor of love” they have encircled their fair brows with an undying wreath of memory and goodness. In years to come, when they who so nobly labored in this offering shall be no more, it will be a pleasure to those little misses and masters who so admirably performed their parts in the tableaux, to revert to the 1st and 2nd days of May, 1866, and to continue to perpetuate and cherish the doings on these eventful and never-to-be-forgotten days. We feel that it

is utterly impossible to describe the scenes of yesterday, for a similar offering and silent, sincere token of esteem to one's country's dead heroes seldom, if ever, falls to the lot of man to witness. The object appears too sacred to be discussed, much less described.

At an early hour in the morning the doors of Concert and Estelle Halls and the Theatre were thrown open. The day was propitious, bright, genial and balmy, as if Heaven was smiling on the sacred and noble work of our women. Everything was admirably arranged and the halls were gaily decked with garlands and mottoes. Edibles of every description, consisting of substantials, delicacies and luxuries, were in great abundance, and the atmosphere was redolent with perfumes of sweet flowers and the scene was enlivened by the bright smiles of our self-sacrificing women. During the entire day the halls were thronged with visitors and the utmost harmony and happiness prevailed. About 11 o'clock A. M. the Theatre began to fill with a beautiful and orderly though very large assemblage to witness the recitations, songs and tableaux of the children. All acquitted themselves handsomely and the large assemblage, notwithstanding the warm weather, evinced the deepest interest and evident satisfaction in all things. This performance was arranged and managed by Mrs. G. Montgomery,* a lady

*Mrs. James Montgomery was born in that portion of this city now known as a suburb—Oakley, being the eighteenth child of her parents. Her grandfather, Samuel Goode, of Whitby, England, located at a farm near Richmond, Va., now known as Whitby. Her father, Samuel Watkins Goode, lived in Washington county, Georgia, and moved to Montgomery in 1830, to Oakley. Her mother was a Miss Douglass, from Middlebury, Vermont, descended from the famous Presbyterian ministers and professors of Edinburg, Scotland. An uncle, Orson Douglass, was founder of the Mariners' Church and Home, in Philadelphia. Mrs. Montgomery is one of the most interesting and talented of women, being by nature both an artist and a musician. Her talents have been fully given to the cause of her loved Southland. The first concert ever given in Dixie for the benefit of the boys in gray was presented in this city by Mrs. Montgomery, assisted by Mrs. Warren Brown, Miss Estelle Williams, Mrs. Whitfield, Mr. Glacmyer, Wm. Harrington, Prof. Baum. Her daughter, Mrs. Ella Montgomery Smith, residing in this city with her mother, was the "Little Ella" so often spoken of in the papers of '66 as the bright and wonderful little sprite who charmed with her songs and recitations the critics of that day.

of genius and great managerial talent, assisted by several of her friends. We have not the space to give the program, and can only give the eloquent opening address, delivered most feelingly, of Master Thomas Martin, as it fully set forth the object and aims of the offering. The following was the opening address:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:* We have met here to-day to pay a tribute to the memory of our gallant dead—those noble heroes who, when the conflict of council was over, stood forward in that of arms. The war is over and peace has spread her broad wings over our conquered country. Although 'tis not the kind of peace we all ardently desired and for which our heroes died—a peace with an independent nationality—yet still the fact is upon us in all its reality, and we must acknowledge it and submit to the inexorable decrees of fate. The ultima ratio has been tried. With what suffering and agonies of despair my hearers all know too well. New duties are upon us, and 'tis our only course to submit to the results of the war, still inscribing on our banner that good old motto, "Onward! Forever onward in the path of duty." Let us still show to the world that as we fought to THE LAST, in a contest in which our honor was at stake, now though defeated, our honor will still demand that we all be true again to the government which has subdued us and to which we have rendered our allegiance. While these are the facts before us, and no one can now have any doubt as to the course our policy and duty would dictate, still it cannot be expected that we can ever forget the past—the glorious past of the last four bloody years of suffering and sorrow of sublimity and woe, of agony and subjugation. Tell us, ye who would have us forget, where can we find that fabled lethe's stream to

*In a letter from Hon. J. Thomas Martin on this subject, he states that Col. Jack Phelan, who was then teaching in Montgomery, wrote this address and took deepest interest in teaching him to deliver it. At that time Master J. Thomas Martin was one of the brightest pupils in Capt. Jack Phelan's school. Hon. J. Thomas Martin is now one of the leading lawyers of Calhoun county, living in Jacksonville, Alabama. At the late Constitutional Convention he was an honored and influential member. He is the nephew of Judge A. J. Walker, who was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama. Mr. Martin was boarding here with his uncle when he delivered, with such ability, the address of this grand occasion.

blot out with its waters of forgetfulness, all remembrance of the past. Bid Greece forget her Aristides and Leonidas; Rome her Cincinnatus and her Scipios, and all the heroes and patriots whose praises have been the theme of the poets and historians. Bid them bury their glorious deeds in oblivion, as soon as tell us to forget the heroes of Manassas, Shiloh, Richmond and Chickamauga. These glorious names can never be forgotten. Their glories have reached the shores of the old world and have extorted from even her proud races the confession that they are bright and noble indeed. No! We can never forget our distinguished and noble heroes who freely died—

Their country to save!
No, we can never, no never forget
How gushed the life-blood of our brave
Upon the soil they died to save!

Forget them! Palsied be the tongue that would dare to utter a sneer over their honored graves! No! Scattered, as they are, all over our land, on our hilltops and in our green valleys, let us, in token of love and appreciation of their virtues, strive with an unceasing toil, regardless of trouble and expense, to collect their bleached bones and bring them all, yes, all, to their own beloved Alabama and here let them rest forever! Let us bury here in Montgomery all the dead sons of our mothers and build up a grand monument to their memory, that its towering height shall kiss with its lofty top our own azure skies; let the radiant beams of the morning sun greet it with its glory, and the last rays of evening waft back a smile on its summit. Let us have a sacred spot in which to lay our dead, to be called, for ages to come, the Macphelah of our Southland. Let us decorate it with flowers and shady trees, and let the vine and the laurel entwine it; and the free song of our own uncaged birds, which speak of liberty and freedom, at last float over them; and let us annually, as time rolls on, meet to celebrate scenes like these of to-day!

Let old men and mothers, young men and maidens, and gladsome children, in all time to come, meet, all over our State, on the first of May and let it be sacred to the memory of our gallant dead. Would ye men of the South avert the scorn and indignation of the world; would ye deserve the respect and

love of your maimed sons who remain; would ye show to the world that ye fought for principle, that honor and virtue are not gone from our land? Go and preserve as a noble treasure, more glorious than all else besides, the sacred and honored dusts of your fallen braves. Go gather the wild flowers, the white rose and the evergreen, and spread them over their hallowed dust! For these are truly emblematical of them. The wild flowers speak of freedom for which they fought and died, the white rose of their pure and noble spirits, and the laurels, the cedar and the ivy green, of their undying fame.

Daughters of Alabama, weep,
 On this our celebration day;
 Your fathers, husbands, brothers sleep
 On the distant fields away.

Oh! gently close the eye
 That loved to look on you;
 Oh! seal the lip whose earliest sigh,
 Whose latest breath was true.

With knots of sweetest flowers,
 Their winding sheets perfume;
 And wash their wounds with true love showers,
 And dress them for the tomb.

For beautiful in death
 The warrior's corse appears;
 Embalmed by fond affection's breath,
 And bathed in woman's tears.

Give me the death of those
 Who for their country die;
 And oh! be mine like their repose,
 When cold and low they lie.

Their loveliest mother earth
 Enshrines the fallen brave;
 In her sweet lap who gave them birth
 They find their tranquil grave.

The day's exercises were closed with the Ladies' Grand Tableau at the Theatre last night, which was witnessed by a tremendous crowd. The scenes and sketches were truly beautiful and were received with great applause. To-night the grand concert of the season will close the ladies' offering to Alabama's dead soldiers. During to day the halls will be opened for vis-

itors and all are invited to come and partake of all that is good to eat and drink, remembering that the proceeds are to be appropriated to a noble purpose."—(Mail, May 2nd, 1866).

"SECOND DAY—LADIES' OFFERING.

"The May-Day Offering closed last evening with the concert and supper. Estelle Hall and Concert Hall were the scenes of an attraction yesterday similar to that of the day before. During the day the dining and refreshment rooms were crowded, not only with citizens of Montgomery, but also with many from the surrounding country. The concert, like the tableaux of the night before, was a brilliant success, reflecting great credit upon the industry, good taste and accomplishment of the young ladies and gentlemen who consented to appear upon the stage in behalf of the enterprise, and upon the large audience which was present, as much to enjoy the entertainment as to aid the cause. Seldom, if ever in the history of Montgomery, have ladies and gentlemen exhibited such devotion to a purpose. The result has been commensurate with their labors, the amount of money realized being probably larger than has ever been realized heretofore for any single charitable or pious purpose. It would be difficult to mention the names of those who have been the most prominent in this good work where all have been exerting themselves to the best of their abilities. Indeed, we hardly think that special thanks should be awarded to any, since those who did less than others did so from want of opportunity, not of inclination. During the concert, recitations and tableaux, many allusions called back to us the melancholy past. 'In Memoriam,' which hung above the stage; the sleeping soldier dreaming of peace; the children throwing flowers upon a tomb (one of the most touching scenes) all stirred the deep fountain of memory in every breath.

"These things are pitiful to recall, but not without a benefit. The benefit consists in educating the children of the South to consecrate the first day of May to the memory of their fathers, to redeem their monuments from the hands of time and obloquy, and to say to the world that though others may seek to blast their fame to all time, yet will they endeavor to make the remotest ages ring with the truth of Southern hearts, as they will ring with the glories of Southern arms.

"Having endeavored to the best of our poor ability to set this movement on foot,* we thank the ladies of Montgomery for having done so much more than we thought it possible to be done; and we know that we will be expressing the voice of the living soldiers when we thank them for their holy sympathy for the remains of those who died by our side."

Thus ended the grand May Day Festival suggested first by the Executive Committee of the Monumental and Historical Association, and successfully carried through by the "Ladies' Memorial Association," nobly assisted by the press of the city and the gallant sons of this glorious commonwealth. Certainly the most marvelous record of loving tribute to the dead heroes of a lost cause ever chronicled!

It is pleasant to see that visitors from other States were no less delighted than our own journalists. The following bright bit from "Ariel," the correspondent of the New Orleans *Picayune*, lends additional color to the scene:

"It is impossible to describe the zeal manifested by the ladies on the occasion. The arrangements were in excellent taste; the walls were adorned with wreaths and appropriate mottoes; the atmosphere was redolent with the perfume of innumerable bouquets, and the bright smiles of the ladies at the tables would

*This is truly spoken. Colonel Hodgson, one of the editors of the "Mail," was the Secretary of the Monumental and Historical Society at its formation, and later both Recording and Corresponding Secretary. He used his pen in advancing this movement as fearlessly as he had used his sword in defense of his country. Captain Whitfield, the other editor and soldier, was also deeply interested, especially in the May-Day Festival. Captain Whitfield is now dead; his widow still resides in Montgomery an enthusiastic member of the Memorial Association. Major Gibson, the proprietor and publisher, now residing at his picturesque home in Verbena, the life and wit of the town, was also enthusiastic for this cause.

have been sufficient to extract the loose change from the gentlemen's pockets."

Another interesting pleasantry from the Press to the ladies was the following when calling on the gentlemen of Montgomery to complete the Central Railroad link, which serves a double purpose, by showing also the financial success of the Festival :

"If the men cannot be aroused to this work, we will have to call upon the ladies to start it. If \$6,000 can be realized by the ladies from a May Day Offering, cannot \$250,000 be raised for public State improvement, which will double the population and wealth of the city in ten years?"—May 11th, '66.

And here, while the women of Montgomery are resting on their laurels, we pause to take a glimpse of four of these heroines who, as the officers of the Memorial Association, worked unremittingly for this success.

MRS. B. S. BIBB, PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Sophia Bibb was descended from a long line of illustrious and wealthy ancestors. She was born in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, March 10th, 1801, and was the daughter of Thomas M. Gilmer and Elizabeth (Lewis) Gilmer. The Lewises, her mother's ancestors, were originally from France, leaving France for Ireland on account of religious persecutions. Here John Lewis, having difficulties in Ireland with the Lords under whom he held his freehold lease, came over from Ireland to America—this famed land of the free and home of the brave. Here he settled in Virginia, in Augusta county, being the first white settler of that county. The Gilmers were descended from the Scotch physician, Dr. George Gilmer, who was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, for many years practicing medicine in that old city. Coming to America, he settled in Williamsburg,

Virginia, the capital of the colony. Thomas M. Gilmer, the father of Mrs. Bibb, subsequently brought his family to Georgia, and settled on the west side of Broad river, in Wilkes county, then known as Oglethorpe. The ancestor of the Bibb family came from France to America in the seventeenth century. He located in Hanover county, Virginia, and there died, leaving three sons—William, James and Thomas. William Bibb, in 1789, removed to Elbert county, Georgia, and died in 1796. Not long after the removal of the Gilmers from Virginia, Capt. William Bibb came with his young family from Virginia and settled on the east side of the river in Elbert county. Here their son, Benajah S. Bibb, wooed and won the daughter of his neighbor, Thomas M. Gilmer. So in 1819 Sophia Gilmer was married to Benajah Smith Bibb, sixth son of Capt. William Bibb. They removed to Alabama in 1822, when he located in Montgomery county on a rich estate, becoming a wealthy planter and wielding a large influence. For twelve years he was County Judge, and in 1864 Judge of the Criminal Court for Montgomery City and County. Too old to enter the army, Judge Bibb gave the Confederate cause his pecuniary aid and his great moral influence and support. Mrs. Bibb was a faithful, loyal servant of her State. Her works during the war are too well known for repetition. As President of the Hospital Association, she proved herself a skilled leader and manager, and was greatly beloved and respected. Possessed of wealth and all the accessories it brings in its wake, her spacious home was ever open to brilliant officers and needy soldiers. When the war was over and she became President of the Memorial Association, she labored with the same earnestness and zeal which had characterized her other works of benev-

olence. Mrs. Bibb was the mother of five children, only two of whom now survive her—Mrs. S. E. Hutcheson and Mrs. M. D. Bibb, whose husband, Col. Joseph B. Bibb, the gallant officer of the 23rd Regiment of Alabama, survived the war only a few years. Mrs. Sophia Bibb's eventful married life covered a period of sixty-five years, Judge Bibb dying in 1884. She was a leading member of the Protestant Methodist church, which she served with the Christian zeal of her forefathers. The years of her widowhood were spent in works of love and charity and benevolence. Up to the hour of her last illness she was a dear, familiar figure, having been blessed with wonderful health, and strength, and activity. At the old home on Moulton street she passed quietly and peacefully away January 9th, 1887. She was buried with every honor in Oakwood Cemetery, the historic God's Acre of Montgomery, side by side with the boys in gray and those other wonderful women who fought with her the "bravest battle ever fought."

MRS. J. D. PHELAN, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Mary Anne Phelan was born in Winchester, Tenn., on the 26th day of April, 1816. She was the daughter of General Thomas Kent Harris, who at the time of her birth was candidate for re-election as Congressman from White county, Tenn. He was a man determined in all principles, both political and moral. To maintain these rights and principles in that day of recklessness in our country's history, he became necessarily involved in a duel. In consequence of that duel he was shot and died from the wounds when this daughter was only two weeks old, leaving two other children, Caroline Harris (Mrs. Wm. Hayes) and Dr. Algernon Sidney Harris, who gave his only son to the Confederate

Army. General Harris was descended from a distinguished and powerful family who came to Virginia from Wales in the seventeenth century, with a land grant from the Crown of England, to what is now known as Richmond, Va. They were a people who feared nothing but wrong in themselves, always battling for the right. After a course at the University of Virginia, General Harris came to Tennessee. Mrs. Phelan's mother was a Miss Mary Anne Moore, of Virginia, daughter of one of the first divines of that State, a man revered and honored until his death at the venerable age of ninety-two years. Mary Anne Harris married in 1836, near Huntsville, Ala., Jno. D. Phelan, a young lawyer who in subsequent years was Speaker of the House of Representatives, Judge of the Circuit Court for fifteen years, twice Judge of the Supreme Court, and at all times a cultured Christian gentleman. No man in all the South gave more of heart and brain to the Confederate cause, nor braver soldiers at the time of need.

Mrs. Phelan was the mother of twelve children, and gave four sons to her country. Her life was always one of helpful activity, public spirit and patriotism. In church, charity or state she was among the first, realizing that one's duties were essential at home, but not to end there. During the war it was a daily labor with her to help the sick in hospitals and manage to get such things as her large family at home and her sons in the army needed. At the news of every battle in Tennessee or Virginia her heart beat with anxiety lest one of these boys was wounded or dying. This fear was often realized—at the battle of Gaines' Mills, when Captain Thomas Phelan was instantly killed; at the battle of Fredericksburg, when Captain Watkins Phelan was dangerously wounded; at the battles of Resacca and At-

lanta, when Captains John and Ellis Phelan were again both severely wounded, and at last at the battle of Petersburg, when Captain Watkins Phelan was mortally wounded, dying April 5th, four days before our brave though overpowered army surrendered at Appomattox. On May 22, 1870, at her home in Montgomery, Mrs. Phelan's tired heart gave its last drum-beat in the battle of life, and sweetly and silently rested. A beautiful coincidence of her life is that the birth-day of our "Memorial Day," which she and others labored so faithfully to establish in Montgomery, is the very same on which her own eyes first opened to the light of dawn—the 26th of April. So the same flowers of April which commemorate her birth and annually make beautiful the bier of sons which Southern mothers bore and gave to their country—mark the birth of a custom which shall live so long as sons and daughters are given to this glorious land of sun-kissed flowers and war-scarred heroes.

Hon. William Garrett, in his "Reminiscences of Public Men" and his eulogy of Judge John D. Phelan, goes out of his way to mention Mrs. Phelan, a compliment he seldom pays the worthy wives of the distinguished men he portrays. "I make mention of this lady," he says, "because I knew her well, and in all that constitutes true womanhood she was one of the foremost women of Alabama. She was extensively known for her genial and unselfish spirit and for her gentle yet thoroughly energetic Christian character."

MRS. WM. O. BALDWIN, SECRETARY.

Mrs. Wm. O. Baldwin was born in Shelbyville, Tenn. She was the daughter of Col. Abram Martin and spent much of her life in South Carolina. Col. Abram Martin was descended from one of the great families of Revolu-

tionary fame, which moved to Montgomery before the war, and was himself a jurist of renown. Her mother was Miss Jane Patton, of Scotch descent, whose mother, Jean Shaw, on coming to America, married Mr. Patton, a cultured gentleman of the old school in South Carolina. Miss Mary Jane Martin was married early in life in 1843, to Dr. Wm. O. Baldwin, of Montgomery, who, at the time of his death, had few peers and no superiors in the medical profession. Dr. Baldwin's ancestors, when they came to this country, settled in Virginia and furnished to that commonwealth distinguished for brilliant men some of its ablest sons. His mother was the sister of Benjamin Fitzpatrick, who for so many years faithfully served Alabama as Governor and United States Senator. Dr. Baldwin was a scholar as well as physician. "As a writer his style was chaste and luminous and in the splendor of its flow has been compared not inaptly to that of Macauley." There was never a woman of more genuine ability of mind and heart or sweetness of character than Mrs. Wm. O. Baldwin. She was clear-headed and gentle, broad-minded and sympathetic. She cared not for the applause and praise of the world, and shunned all ostentation and show. Duty and love were her watchwords. Yet, though so modest and shrinking, she felt a deep interest in all that pertained to the public welfare. Mrs. Baldwin gave to the South her first born, Wm. O. Baldwin, Jr., who was a mere youth when he left the University of Alabama and joined the Confederate Army. He was the youngest captain in his regiment, the 22nd Alabama, being only nineteen years old. He took part in every battle in which his regiment was engaged, and fell finally at the last entrenchment, at the battle of Frank-

lin, Tenn.* Mrs. Baldwin never entirely recovered the shock of his death and the work nearest her heart, coming next to her beautiful Christian faith, was the proper burial of Alabama soldiers and the memorial services of April 26th, which she, with others, was instrumental in making a loving, never-to-be-forgotten custom. She was the first Secretary of the Memorial Association, and on the death of Mrs. Phelan became first Vice-President. Mrs. Baldwin died in 1878, leaving heart-broken her great husband who had encircled her with the youthful romance of first love; always to him she was the emblem of perfection in womanhood.

MRS. E. C. HANNON, TREASURER.

Mrs. Hannon was born in 1814 in Milledgeville, then the capital of Georgia. Her father, Thos. B. Stubbs,

*The following is the first letter announcing the death of Wm. O. Baldwin, Jr.:

FRANKLIN, TENN., Dec. 1, 1864.

HON. BARCLAY MARTIN:

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to announce to you the sad intelligence of the death of the son (your relative) of one of my best friends, Capt. Wm. O. Baldwin. He was wounded about nine o'clock last night and died at five o'clock this morning. I will write to his father, Dr. W. O. Baldwin, of Montgomery, Ala. The Surgeon of his regiment will communicate with and let you know where his remains are buried. Willie was shot with the colors of his regiment in his hands leading it against the strong position of his enemy, and fell within a short distance of the enemy's breast-works. There was great difficulty in getting plank to make a coffin, and I having to leave before he was buried, do not know what kind of a one was made. I write in great haste.

Very respectfully and truly,

A. J. FOARD,
Medical Director.

(Capt. Wm. O. Baldwin's remains were soon after brought to Montgomery and placed in the family plot at Oakwood Cemetery.)

was a large cotton planter, and also engaged in mercantile pursuits. Her antecedents were distinguished, her social position was of the highest, while her educational advantages were the best that the schools and seminaries of the day afforded. Upon her marriage to the late E. C. Hannon (well known in business circles of the first capital of the Confederacy thirty years ago) she came to Montgomery and there lived until the King's voice bade her "come up higher." Mrs. Hannon was of a sweet, gentle disposition and beautiful character. She was one of God's "hidden ones." Few, if any, of that generation of noble Montgomery women were more loved than she. A Southron of the Southerners—from first to last her heart was in "the cause." The inmates of her household in the early stages of the war were familiar with the hum of two sewing machines as with her faithful colored domestics she sewed sand bags for the batteries of the gulf coast and blankets for the soldiers. One near to her says: "When the First Alabama Cavalry was organized at Montgomery, I recall going home one day and finding a soldier boy stretched on a pallet in the sitting room sick. It was this soldier boy's custom always after in passing through the city to call and see his foster mother. Years afterwards this soldier boy, then a doctor from Paris, sent her from the train a greeting which we may be sure her mother heart lovingly returned." This boy was but the head of a column who at times camped as invalids in her home. Three of her sons, the late Capt. Thomas E. Hannon and two younger brothers, followed General Wheeler. Capt. Hannon enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his commander, and a call from General Wheeler cheered his faithful subaltern when fighting his last battle with death. Mrs. Hannon used to say

that the battle of Shiloh turned her head gray. By a coincidence her son and a brother (the late Lieutenant-Colonel M. W. Hannon, of the First Alabama Cavalry) were in the battle, and Pittsburg landing was the property of her father. She never surrendered and only negatively accepted the "situation." The evening of her life was divided between her children in Montgomery and her sons in Virginia, Baltimore and California. In 1898 she "fell on sleep," and her body lies in the old cemetery in Montgomery hard by the honored dust of the boys who wore "the gray."



CHAPTER VII.

The next information of interest from the Memorial Association came in the form of an open letter from its able Secretary, Mrs. Baldwin, to the ladies of Alabama.

"The following communication, which is intended for every lady of the State, explains itself, and we would respectfully request our exchanges of the State to re-publish with such remarks as they think proper in furtherance of the purpose:

MONTGOMERY, ALA., May 10, 1866.

DEAR MADAM—The ladies of this place have recently organized themselves into a society for the purpose of raising funds for the burial and preservation from neglect and desecration of the mortal remains of our heroic dead, under the name of "The Ladies' Society for the Burial of Deceased Alabama Soldiers." As Secretary of this Society, I am instructed to ask your co-operation in this noble work which you will find in the following resolution adopted in our meeting to-day :

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of this Society correspond with influential ladies in different parts of the State and urge them to organize societies similar to ours, formed with a view to united exertion in accomplishing the purpose of this Society.

Our Society has been organized only a few weeks, and we have already raised the sum of \$5,000. Similar efforts in other cities of the State will enable the ladies by concert of action to do much good. We propose to have an offering on the first day of May annually commemorating the past with tributes for our fallen brave. If you desire it, we will send you a copy of our constitution, resolutions, etc. This Society entered into a correspondence to-day with Col. Jno. W. McGavock, of Franklin, Tenn., in view of responding to his generous and noble offers made last winter in behalf of the dead of Alabama who fell on the ever memorable field of Franklin.

Very respectfully,

—The Mail.

MARY J. BALDWIN, Sec'y."

In addition to the above, Mrs. Baldwin was also in correspondence with Col. McGavock and others from different battlefields. In reply to Mrs. Baldwin's letter to Col. McGavock, she received the following:

MRS. MARY J. BALDWIN:

MADAM—Your letter as Secretary of the Ladies' Society for Re-interment of Deceased Alabama Soldiers who fell in the battles fought on the soil of this State was received to-day. It gives me pleasure to contribute what I can in aid of this work. In order that you may know and through you, the ladies of Montgomery, what has been done in the work of re-interring the Confederate dead at this place, I will give here a transcript from the record book with reference to the Alabama dead. To this date there has been 1,300 interments; of this number there are 132 from Alabama. Perhaps there are fifteen or twenty more from Alabama yet to be removed. The money subscribed for this work falls short of the amount due the undertaker who was persuaded to undertake the removal of all the dead at this place in advance of subscriptions. This was done in order to have removed from fields exposed to the plowshare the remains of all those who were there buried. This part of the work is now finished at a cost of \$6,500. \$3,500 has been obtained and paid to the contractor, who was a Confederate soldier from Texas, G. W. Cuppett, Terry's Regiment of Texas Rangers who came forward and offered to do the whole work in advance of the subscription and at a less cost than any one else, and I am sure at a price as low as it can be done—\$5.00 for each remains. Each coffin is neatly and compactly made of oak. The order of interment is by platoon, fifteen in each, and each state (as far as identification would admit) to itself; also by regiments and companies. There are two lines, separated by an avenue of fourteen feet in width, and in the centre of each state a monumental space of thirty-five feet square. The design is considered appropriate. The spot is a beautiful one, and if the means can be had it is the intention of the company to enclose and adorn and beautify it in a permanent manner due the gallant dust reposing in it. I write these details on the eve of starting for Nashville, where I will be absent some days. In two or three weeks this work will be finished, at which time

the dust of all the Confederate soldiers who fell in those battles fought here will be congregated together. I have been informed by those who have visited the other battlefields of this State—Shiloh and Murfreesboro—in search of their kindred, that all identifications have been torn away by rude hands (with a few exceptions) and have otherwise disappeared. Therefore I would suggest whether an effort should be made in search for the dead by any one state separately, or whether a joint effort should not be made to remove all the Confederate dead to some spot selected for that purpose.

Any means sent by your Society will be appropriated in the way you desire. I would be pleased to have more leisure and write more carefully of this sad work.

With very high regard, etc.,

JNO. MCGAVOCK.

—(Mail, May 23, 1866.)

Now came the first note of discontent. There seems to have crept out an opinion from some quarters that a part of the money obtained for the dead should have been given to the living poor. This was exaggerated and sent out to the Northern press. The following caustic editorial ably defends the position of the Ladies' Memorial Association, and explains the situation :

"THE LIVING AND DEAD.

"The Journals of the South which may have noticed the anonymous letter of the correspondent of 'Forney's Chronicle' respecting the successful efforts of the ladies of Montgomery to raise a fund for the burial of our dead, will do us justice by publishing the following statement :

"Reports had reached us that the bones of our children and fathers who fell in the late unhappy war were being ploughed up on the battlefields, or were exposed to view by being improperly buried. So soon as we received satisfactory information that these reports were true, the ladies of Montgomery set on foot a kind of Fair in order to raise a small sum to contribute to the work of interring the dead. They expected to realize a

thousand dollars. They realized, however, about five thousand dollars. After the movement had been set on foot, the newspapers commenced publishing accounts of great destitution among the poor of the State. The ladies who were engaged in raising the fund for the dead did not think proper to change the direction of that fund, for they were informed by gentlemen of high position that the Government intended to furnish adequate assistance to the poor. They also knew that the city of Montgomery alone had given over \$10,000 to the poor while the 'offering for the dead' was in progress. It is not true that our people have neglected or are neglecting the wants of the living in order to indulge in sentiment for the dead. They have been ready and are still ready to do justice to both. They can bury the dead but once; they are feeding the poor daily. The assistance which they extended to the destitute is not blazoned to the world, and hence has not attracted the attention which this offering to the dead has attracted. Exactly as the ladies were informed, the President has ordered the Commissary Department to relieve every case of destitution. Hence there has been no necessity to appropriate the ladies' fund for another object than that for which it was raised. The secret of this carping is not because the fund was not applied to the relief of the poor, but because it was applied to preserving the memory of our dead. It is the object of the Radical Forney and his fellow traitors to retain power by harping upon the rebellion and by distorting and endeavoring to render odious the most sacred affections of the South. It is the purpose of these men to render odious the memory of those who died in the Confederate cause. On the contrary, it is our purpose to cherish their memory as heroes whose devotion and gallantry would have ennobled any cause. Their memory shall live for history and not die for a party."—Mail, May 20, 1866.

On May 22nd there was an important call from Mrs. Sophia Bibb, the President:

"The members of the Society for the Burial of Deceased Alabama Soldiers and all ladies of the city are requested to meet at the Methodist church at five o'clock p. m. The committee for the application of funds raised by the Society composed of the resident ministers of the city and the President of the

Monumental and Historical Society are also requested to meet at the same time and place.

MRS. BIBB, President.

MRS. BALDWIN, Secretary."

—(Mail, May 22, 1866.)

No report of this meeting was given out through the press, nor could any record of the meeting be found in the Secretaries' books of the Memorial Association proper, or of the committee for proper application of funds.

Another meeting of the Committee for Proper Application of Funds, taken from the Secretary's books, under date June 8th, '66, is of interest :

"On motion it was Resolved to appropriate \$800 for burial of Alabama dead at Franklin, the funds to be forwarded to Colonel McGavock of that place for the purpose.

"Letter from Miss L. R. Meem read with respect to the remains of Alabama soldiers buried near Mt. Jackson, Shenandoah County, Va. On motion of Rev. Bishop McTyeire it was Resolved, That the Secretary of this Society open correspondence with Miss Meem to ascertain whether the Alabama soldiers above referred to were buried at the expense of the Government or of individuals; if at private expense, at what cost, and also whether there are other Alabama dead remaining unburied or imperfectly buried, and what would be the probable expense of their decent interment? On motion \$1,000 were appropriated for the burial of the remains of Alabama soldiers who fell on the field of Corinth, if it should be possible to identify them; if not, it was resolved that the remains generally be collected together and buried at the expense of the Society, provided such expense does not exceed \$1,000. It was further Resolved, on motion of Bishop McTyeire, That a letter be addressed to Mr. John F. Green, of Resaca, to ascertain the condition of Alabama dead that fell at that point, and also that similar inquiries be made concerning the dead of our State at Jonesboro. The motion was then extended to apply to those who fell at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge.

"On motion, Dr. S. K. Cox* was appointed assistant Secretary to Mrs. Baldwin."

June 8, 1866.

Thus it will be seen that Dr. Cox was assistant Secretary of the Committee for the Proper Application of Funds, and not of the Memorial Association, as has been supposed. This committee was composed of the President of the Historical and Monumental Association, President and Secretary of the Memorial Association and the resident ministers of the city, as has been before shown. In some instances Dr. Cox is signed "Assistant Secretary," in others "Corresponding Secretary" of the committee.

At a previous meeting of this committee, May 10th, 1866, Dr. Cox moved that "The Society appoint a suitable agent to visit different battlefields and ascertain the condition and report to this Society." It was decided that the Memorial Association send such agent, paying all expenses. Dr. Cox was chosen as this agent and faithfully discharged these duties.

The following is a much later report from this committee, which Dr. Cox very wisely calls Appropriation Committee :

LADIES' MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION:—A Statement of Disbursements made by the Appropriation Committee of the Ladies' Memorial Association, of Montgomery, Ala.

Amount forwarded to Col. McGavock, of Tennessee, for the collection and interment of remains of Alabama soldiers that

*Dr. Cox was a Protestant Methodist minister of this city for some time. Subsequently he was President of a Female College here, being associated with Mrs. Pollock, who subsequently made famous Pollock and Stevens Institute of Birmingham, Ala. Leaving here, Dr. Cox went to Christiansburg, Va., to the college there, and died some years since in Baltimore. Dr. Cox was deeply interested in the memorial work, and his services were much appreciated by the ladies.

fell at the battle of Franklin, \$800. Amount sent to Miss Leila R. Meem, of Fort Jackson, Shenandoah Co., Va., for the re-interment of the Alabama dead at that point, \$100. Amount sent to Resaca, Ga., for a similar purpose, \$100. Amount sent to the Memorial Association of Richmond, Va., for purpose of marking graves and giving decent interment to remains of Alabama soldiers that fell in various battles near that city, \$400. Amount forwarded to the Association at Fredericksburg for a similar purpose, \$600. Total amount actually expended, \$2,000. In addition to the sums above enumerated, other appropriations have been made amounting to about \$1,400, but awaiting more definite information before being distributed. Enquiries, too, have been instituted concerning our dead at various points, provision for whose remains will about consume the balance in hand. The committee have exercised the utmost caution in discharging the duty assigned them, that no portion of the funds might be injudiciously appropriated or committed to unsafe hands. Their attention has been especially directed to remains lying in exposed situations where they were constantly liable to desecration or neglect. Many of them have been gathered from the roadsides, open fields and unfrequented places, and removed to some safe and reliable repository of the dead. The graves of others have been plainly but permanently marked or so classified as to admit of easy identification. We are satisfied that in every instance the money has been appropriated in strict accordance with the sacred purpose for which it was given.

SAM'L K. COX, Cor. Sec'y.

—Mail, Dec. 22nd, 1866.

Now that their hearts were at rest over the appalling unburied condition of the loved on far off fields, these indefatigable women turned with zeal to beautifying and improving their own cemetery. For the accomplishment of this more funds were necessary. So it was decided to have a Christmas offering, on Wednesday night, December 24th, in Concert and Estelle halls. The papers, in speaking of this appeal, said in part :

“Though the ladies worked nobly in May last and raised a

large sum of money which has done and is doing a great amount of good in burying the dead of Alabama, it was not for the benefit of those lying in their own midst, and their success on that occasion but encourages them to another effort."

The entertainment decided on was both unique and beautiful. Three Christmas trees were arranged in the historic old Concert and Estelle halls. It is said to have been a most brilliant, touching and inspiring sight. The whole town as one united family gathered here and enjoyed together a sacred, hallowed Christmas eve. One tree contained presents from parent to child, child to parent and friend to friend ; another contained beautiful and useful articles made by the fair fingers of the ladies, ornaments and toys which were bought by many and distributed to friends, or to the poor and needy. Light refreshments were served. Little children played the happy games of childhood, older people held sweet converse of by-gone, brighter days, handsome youths and fair maidens told each to other the old-new story of loving, while sweetest music swept the chords of those human heart-strings to songs of dear remembrance. Truly was this a holy night, "with peace on earth, good will towards man,"—that night of which the poets sing—a night emblematic of the Christ-child, whose birth it keeps for ever more.

The money on hand and that received from this entertainment, as well as subsequent accumulations, went towards marking the graves in our own cemetery and building there the monument and chapel.

The Secretary's book of March 31st, 1868, says, in part:

"Dr. Cox submitted the plan for erection at Soldiers' Cemetery in honor of Confederate dead buried there, the marble work of which should not exceed \$700 in cost. Plan adopted

and immediate erection of the monument was authorized. Dr. Cox was also authorized to have erected on the cemetery grounds an ornamental structure to contain the chart and the register of the cemetery and to serve also as a pleasant place of resort for visitors. Some preliminary steps were taken with respect to the annual offering on the first day of May, after which the Committee adjourned."

—Cox, Cor. Sec'y, March 31st, 1868.

The amount finally spent, however, on the headstones, monument and chapel has been estimated at \$5,600 for headstones and \$3,000 for monument and chapel.

The next important item from the Secretary's records is one full of sad interest, chronicling a tender respect to the beloved First Vice-President, Mrs. John D. Phelan. A few brief words tell all the pathetic story:

"The Committee met at the residence of Mrs. Judge Bibb. A resolution was adopted to appropriate \$100 to the removal and reinterment of the remains of a son of Mrs. John Phelan."

—April 13th, 1870.

The son referred to here was Capt. Thomas Phelan, who was killed in an engagement around Richmond. His body was removed to Petersburg and placed with another brother in the cemetery there. Some years later Mr. Sidney Phelan, of Atlanta, had the remains of his brothers brought to Oakwood Cemetery and laid in one grave by the side of their mother. The following clipping is from the Advertiser of that date:

"SOLDIERS REST! THY WARFARE O'ER!

"The Independent Rifles, Blues and Greys, together with a large number of veteran Confederates and citizens generally, were at the Union Depot yesterday morning to meet the remains of Captains Thomas and Watkins Phelan, which were brought from the battlefields of Virginia. There was no demonstration at the station, and the funeral cortege immediately took up its march for the cemetery, the military compa-

nies acting as escorts. At the cemetery Rev. Dr. Stringfellow* conducted religious services and the military fired three volleys over the single grave, which contained the remains of two as gallant soldier brothers as ever wore the gray. The volleys were fired with veteran precision and constituted a worthy tribute to the dead heroes.

“Soldier, rest! Thy warfare o’er!
Sleep the sleep that knows no waking;
Dream of battlefields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waking.

“Among the distinguished gentlemen present was Governor O’Neal, who knew and loved the sleeping braves when they led their troops in battle.”

*Dr. Stringfellow was in Virginia and officiated at the ceremonies, when, in 1864, young Watkins Phelan was buried in the little churchyard at Petersburg. Many years later he became the beloved rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church, this city, and performed again the same service for the now loving and loved parishoners that he had sadly performed years before unknowing and unknown.



CHAPTER VIII.

In 1870 there appears one vacancy in the list of officers. It spoke in pathetic silence of the Memorial Association's first loss—Mrs. J. D. Phelan, the First Vice-President, was dead. She lived only a short while after the tender compliment paid her by her beloved organization in having the remains of her precious son moved to the side of his brother in Virginia. This beautiful acknowledgment of the services and worth of the First Vice-President of the Memorial Association sank deep in the heart of this patriotic mother, and before her own summons came to join her soldier boys it gave her many an hour of peace and comfort, for over and over she was heard to sigh: "Dead, both my boys, but now they are sleeping side by side."

Mrs. Phelan lived long enough, though, to see her most cherished wishes realized; for during the first four years this Association accomplished a work unparalleled in history. The dead upon all the fields of battle were properly interred; a monument and chapel in the cemetery were completed; eight hundred graves were marked with head-boards, and the beautiful Memorial Day custom was firmly established. For the completing of all objects many thousand dollars had been expended. It was a glorious, marvelous record, a fit emblem of our Southern womanhood.

Mrs. B. S. Bibb lived many useful, beautiful years thereafter, leaving vacant through death the office of President in 1887. For twenty-one years this lovely woman was spared to the Association, accomplishing by

shining deeds undying fame on the roll of time. She lived long enough to know that in addition to all the other work accomplished, the hands of Jefferson Davis, once manacled for love of our dear cause, had placed the corner-stone of our Confederate Monument on historic ground. At this time the Monument on Capitol Hill, the corner-stone of which President Davis came to lay, at the urgent invitation of Mayor Reese and the Memorial Association, was near the hearts of the ladies. Mrs. Bibb was deeply interested and had made the first donation towards the movement. Though ill at the time and unable to attend the ceremonies in person, her ear was attuned to every sound, and the booming of the cannon and the quickening of her own heart told her that all was well on Capitol Hill. So also a few months later did her sorrowing friends know that all was well with her beautiful soul. Her daughter, Mrs. Martha D. Bibb, was made President in her stead January 14th, 1887, at a meeting held at the home of Judge and Mrs. Clopton, and with unremitting labors and patriotic devotion she has worn the mantle of her sainted mother.

During Mrs. Bibb's term of mourning, Mrs. Clifford A. Lanier* was chosen by the Association as acting Presi-

*Mrs. Wilhelmina Clopton Lanier, who served as President pro tem. immediately after the death of Mrs. Sophia Bibb, while Mrs. M. D. Bibb was in deep sorrow, is a native of Tuskegee, Ala., and is the daughter of Hon. David and Martha (Ligon) Clopton, sister of the late Governor R. F. Ligon, of this city. Her father was most honorably identified with the history of this State. He had been elected to the United States Congress, in a memorable canvass, just preceding the war. He retired from that body, with his fellows, on the secession of the States, and became a soldier. He afterwards was in the Confederate Congress. After the war he removed to Montgomery and was an able jurist on the bench of the State Supreme Court. Mrs. Lanier has served the beloved cause of the Ala-

dent and served with that ability and grace for which she is so justly famed. Under her administration a brilliant Bazaar was held, netting to the Association \$2,027.70, with an additional \$125 sent through Mrs. R. A. McClellan, from the patriotic women of Limestone county.

This was the first entertainment given by the ladies for the benefit of the monument after the laying of the corner stone, and realized more than any since the first May Day Festival. Much of the success of this Bazaar was due to the skillful management and magnetic influence of Mrs. Tennent Lomax,* who was made chairman of the Bazaar.

bama Division, U. D. C. as President of the Cradle of Confederacy Chapter, and has always been prominent in the movement to preserve to Southern history the First White House of the Confederacy. She is the wife of Mr. Clifford A. Lanier, a talented writer and poet, of this city, and a brave Confederate soldier, who fought side by side with his brother—the South's famous poet, soldier and musician—the beloved, lamented Sidney Lanier.

*Mrs. Carrie A. Lomax was born in Clinton, Jones county, Georgia, on March 17, 1825, being the daughter of James Billingslea and Elizabeth (Slatter) Billingslea. On her mother's side she is a descendant of a soldier of the war of the Revolution. In 1848 she was married to Reuben C. Shorter, Esq., of Eufaula, Ala., Mr. Shorter being a brother of Governor John Gill Shorter and of Messrs. Eli S. and Henry R. Shorter, all distinguished in the history of Alabama. Mr. Shorter came to Montgomery with his bride and entered upon the practice of law. He lived but five years after his marriage and left his young wife a widow with two sons. In 1857 she became the wife of the then Captain (afterwards Brigadier-General) Tennent Lomax, at the time owner and editor of the Columbus, Ga., Times and Sentinel and before that time a Captain in the Mexican War. Shortly after their marriage they removed to Montgomery. At the outbreak of the war between the States he entered the army and in 1862 he was killed in battle at the head of the famous Third Alabama, of which he was Colonel, with his commission as a Brigadier-General in his pocket. Since his death Mrs. Lomax has continued to reside in her fine old-time mansion—her home for more than fifty years—one of the

It was the desire of the ladies to have Mr. Davis again present to open this brilliant Bazaar, but his already recent visit coupled with other obstacles prevented. The following letter from Mrs. Clifford Lanier, the President pro tem. of the Memorial Association, will show how earnestly the State hoped for another opportunity of welcoming their hero chieftain and his noble family.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., Feb. 2, 1887.

HON. JEFFERSON DAVIS:

Dear Sir—The Ladies' Memorial Association of Montgomery endeavor to again charm you from your dignified retreat. On Monday, February 7th, we propose to open a Bazaar, the laudable purpose of which is to increase the funds for the Monument to our Dead. The Women of the South can never separate their efforts in this direction from the noble figure about whom all our recollections cling. So we earnestly hope that your time and health may lend you to us for this second week of February. I am authorized to say that Mr. Cecil Gabbett, our railway Superintendent, will put a special car at your disposal, and that the hospitality of the home of our Mayor, Col. Warren Reese, is cordially offered to Mrs. Davis, Miss Winnie and yourself.

Mrs. M. D. Bibb, who has been selected President of our Association, as successor to her lamented mother, joins us in renewed assurances of our earnest wish for your acceptance of our invitation.

Very respectfully,

MRS. CLIFFORD LANIER,
Pres. Pro Tem.

proud landmarks of the city. Here, beloved for her gentle nature, deeds of loving kindness, and her broad and catholic views, gently guarded by her devoted and brilliant son, Hon. Tennent Lomax, she still lives, as modestly unconscious of her distinguished position in Alabama's capital as if she were the humblest being within its gates. Until her feeble health restrained her, Mrs. Lomax was one of the controlling working spirits of the Court Street M. E. Church, of which she is a loyal member. She is also a charter member of the Memorial Association and a faithful "Daughter of the Confederacy."

Many brilliant amateur performances, concerts, etc., have been given for the Memorial Association, but a list of these and of those taking part in all memorial work since 1870 would of itself make a book. Besides, the work of the Association since that time is all too fresh in the minds of the public to need the light of historic comment.

Through many long years of labor and love by the brave women of the Association, and under the able administration of Mrs. M. D. Bibb, the monument on Capitol Hill was completed. This monument was begun by the Alabama Soldiers' Monument Association of 1885, the incorporators being Governor E. A. O'Neal, W. S. Reese, W. L. Bragg, Josiah Morris, William B. Jones, W. W. Screws, W. W. Allen, Jacob Greil, John W. A. Sanford, H. A. Herbert, J. B. Gaston, Thomas G. Jones, H. C. Tompkins, J. H. Higgins, D. S. Rice, T. J. Rutledge; Chairman, W. S. Reese; Secretary of the Board of Incorporators, T. J. Rutledge. In 1886, soon after the laying of the corner stone by Mr. Davis, the Monument Association turned over its effects to the Memorial Association and it was by the ladies completed and unveiled on December 7th, 1898.

Those who were on the programme as active participants in the historic scene when the monument was unveiled, were as follows:

Col. Wm. J. Sanford, afterward Governor of the State, was Chairman of the proceedings. Rev. Geo. B. Eager, D. D., was Chaplain. Judge Thos. G. Jones delivered the oration of the day. Four special tributes were paid to the four arms of the service; to the Infantry by Gen. Jno. W. A. Sanford; to the Artillery by Capt. B. H. Screws; to the Navy by Col. H. A. Herbert, Ex-Secretary of the Navy of the United States; to the

Cavalry by Col. Jefferson M. Falkner. After each of these tributes a young lady unveiled the statue erected to that particular branch of the service and recited the inscription on the monument under the figure. These young ladies were: for the Infantry, Miss C. T. Raoul; for the Artillery, Miss Lena Hausman; for the Marines, Miss Janie Eddins Watts; for the Cavalry, Miss Laura Elmore.

At the close of these ceremonies Col. A. A. Wiley, acting for Mayor Clisby of Montgomery, and on behalf of the Ladies' Memorial Association, presented the monument to the State. It was accepted by Mr. Chappell Cory, Private Secretary to the Governor, and acting for Governor Johnston.

Miss Sadie Robinson, unfolding a beautiful Confederate flag, recited the "Conquered Banner," and a tableaux was enacted by thirteen young ladies, each representing one of the thirteen Southern States, as follows: South Carolina, Miss Jean Craik; Mississippi, Miss Maggie Crommelin; Florida, Miss Joscelyn Fisher Ockenden; Alabama, Miss Rebecca Pollard; Georgia, Miss Katie Burch; Louisiana, Miss Sarah H. Jones; Texas, Miss Mattie Thorington; Virginia, Miss Caroline Hannon; Arkansas, Miss Mamie Holt; North Carolina, Miss Eliza Arrington; Tennessee, Miss Mattie Gilmer Bibb; Missouri, Miss Alabama Brown; Kentucky, Miss Martha E. Bibb.

Miss Annie Gorman rendered the songs of the occasion, "Dixie" and "Bonnie Blue Flag." Several airs were rendered by the Powell Quartette, and Courtney's 2nd Regiment Band furnished the music.

Side by side with the work of the Association still goes on the beautiful custom of decking annually the soldiers' graves.

Year after year the flowers are brought to the hospitable home of Mrs. J. C. Lee,* as they have been always since the death of Mrs. Baldwin—whose home was first the resting place of those April blossoms. Here, with Mrs. Lee, the undaunted still meet and twine the wreaths of to-day as they twined the wreaths of thirty-six years ago. The flowers are as lovely as the flowers

*One of the most zealous and unselfish members of the Ladies' Memorial Association of Montgomery is Mrs. John C. Lee. She united with the organization in the spring of 1868, immediately on her arrival in the city, and for thirty-five years she has been devoted to its noble work. Mrs. Lee is a native of Abbeville District, S. C. Her father was Dr. Graves, a cultured gentleman of worth and a grandson of Samuel (Ready Money) Scott, who gave his time and means to the Revolutionary cause. Her mother, Harriet Lomax, was descended from the Lomax, Tennent and Middleton families, each of whom contributed to the success of the cause of the Colonists in the War of the Revolution. At the outbreak of the war, Mrs. Lee and her husband resided in Louisville, LaFayette Co., Ark. This county lay along the Red River and was considered the Nile of the West. The country was filled with many wealthy planters and the sentiment was largely on the side of the North. In the town there were only five men who stood up for Southern principles and secession. When Lincoln's proclamation, with its famous phrase, "Rebels to your homes," was received there, the leaders of the Union party prepared a large national flag, which they floated to the breeze. On seeing this, the small but determined body of Southern sympathizers appealed to their wives to assist them in preparing a Southern flag. Mrs. Lee at once took the lead in the matter and calling to her aid Mrs. M. B. Welborn, now of Montgomery, and Mrs. Marshall, now of Camden, Ark., they soon, with their own hands, made a beautiful flag, on one side of which was represented the coat-of-arms of Arkansas, and on the other the words, "States' Rights Forever." In making this flag the ladies were compelled to cut up fine and expensive silk dresses. Mrs. Lee continued here during the entire struggle and when war's loud alarms were heard on the borders of LaFayette county, she threw open her home to the soldiers. She and her husband nobly devoted themselves to the alleviation of suffering and no service was too hard for them. War over, all she had swept away, life to begin anew, they came to Montgomery. Mrs. Lee is noted for her charities, her greatness of heart, and her good offices to the needy and helpless. Her husband, Dr. J. C. Lee, was a relative of the great Captain, Robert E. Lee.

of old, the wreaths of laurel are the same sheen of bronze and green, the beautiful sentiment is ever as fresh as then—only the hands which wrought are changing—for many, so many have been folded in rest. But neither time nor change shall ever dim the ardor of the daughters and grand-daughters of those mothers of eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

The officers who have in honoring so noble and historic an association honored themselves and their children's children for generations yet unborn, are as follows: Presidents—Mrs. Sophia Bibb, Mrs. M. D. Bibb; President pro tem, Mrs. Clifford Lanier; Vice-Presidents—Mrs. John D. Phelan, Mrs. Wm. O. Baldwin, Mrs. John A. Elmore, Mrs. J. C. Hausman; Vice-President pro tem, Mrs. Wm. Ware;* Secretaries—Mrs. Wm. O. Baldwin, Mrs. Virginia Hilliard, Miss Bettie Bell, Miss Mamie Graham, Mrs. Rosa Gardner, Miss Jennie Crommelin,† Mrs. I. M. P. Ockenden; Secretary

*From the minutes of 1879, of April 1st, we read: "Mrs. Wm. Pickett was nominated for Vice-President." From the minutes of Tuesday, 8th, 1879: "Mrs. Pickett declined. Mrs. Hausman was put in nomination and elected, but declined for this year; and Mrs. Wm. Ware was nominated for Vice-President pro tem. and kindly consented to act in conjunction with her duties as Treasurer." Mrs. Wm. Ware was one of the most zealous and faithful workers of the Association in those dark days, never murmuring, though often times performing the office of two. She was also a faithful attendant at the sewing circles and hospitals. The sympathies of a large circle of friends go out to her now in the recent loss of her husband, Col. Wm. Ware, who was a gallant soldier of the Confederate army.

†Miss Jennie Crommelin is the third Secretary who has passed over the river to "rest under the shade of the trees," and deserves honorable mention in connection with the monument on Capitol Hill. None was truer or more faithful to a cause which she loved, not only for the cause's sake, but for the sake of her noble brothers and kindred who fought to uphold its principles. The day was never so dark nor the rain so heavy as to keep her from her post of duty when, with anxious hearts, the ladies of the Memorial Association were pleading with the

of Committee for Proper Application of Funds—Dr. S. K. Cox; Treasurers—Mrs. Hannon, Mrs. Wm. Ware, Mrs. Geo. Holmes, Miss Jennie R. Crommelin, Mrs. I. M. P. Ockenden.* All of the original officers have been dead for many years. Of the original Executive Committee there are now living only two: Mrs. Mount, who resides in Baltimore, and Mrs. James A. Ware, of Montgomery. Of the Nominating Committee of April 16, 1866, only one now survives, Mrs. Wm. Johnston, of this city. All members of these committees, which have been before given, were earnest workers in the sewing circles and the hospitals. Although Mrs. Wm. Johnston during the war was ten miles in the country, at her plantation near McGehee's Switch, her spacious home was the happy refuge of convalescent soldiers, and her household was ever busy with needles and knitting needles.

No officer of the Memorial Association has ever been changed except through resignation or death. The present officers who were elected last month, March, 1902, are: President, Mrs. M. D. Bibb; First Vice-President, Mrs. J. C. Lee; Secretary, Mrs. I. M. P. Ockenden; Assistant Secretary, Miss Joscelyn Ockenden; Treasurer, Mrs. G. R. Doran. The Executive Committee for this term has not yet been formed.

So far as can be ascertained, the following is the list of charter members, most of whom were present at the

Legislature for funds to complete the monument on Capitol Hill. That she did not live to see the unveiling was a deep sorrow to her loving co-workers—though doubtless from the blue above she smiled upon that scene below.

*The office of Secretary and Treasurer was for many years combined. At the last election, however, March, 1902, the office of Treasurer was again taken, and that of Assistant Secretary added.

memorable initial meeting at Court Street Methodist Church April 16th, 1866: Mesdames B. S. Bibb, J. D. Phelau, W. O. Baldwin, E. C. Hannon, Samuel Rambo, John Elmore, Wm. Pollard, Dr. Wilson, W. J. Bibb, G. L. Mount, C. J. Hausman, F. Bugbee, W. B. Bell, Fort Hargrove, James Ware, Benj. Fitzpatrick, T. H. Watts, W. W. Allen, J. Clanton, Holtzelaw, John Gindrat, Jack Thorington, J. B. Bibb, Warren S. Reese, T. Lomax, Virgil Murphy, W. C. Bibb, Geo. Goldthwaite, Samuel Rice, T. J. Judge, F. M. Gilmer, Sam'l Jones, Carnot Bellinger, W. C. Jackson, S. Holt, G. W. Petrie, E. A. Semple, J. W. Keyes, Hill, Thos. Taylor, Eliza Moore, Eliza Ponder, Leon Wyman, Wm. Johnston, Jno. Whiting, Benj. Micon, Amanda Snodgrass, Eliza Brown, J. Cox, Dan Cram, S. E. Hutchison, J. DuBose Bibb, A. Gerald, Sam'l Reid, Lou McCants, Jas. Terry, Henry Weil, Sarah Herron, Henry Lee, Galatin McGehee, Sam Marks, Virginia Hilliard, Wm. L. Yancey, Geo. R. Doran, S. P. Hardaway, Jas. Stewart, P. H. Gayle, Richard Goldthwaite, Tucker Sayre, Wm. Ray, A. Strassburger, John Cobbs, Wm. Ware, M. A. Baldwin, Misses Mary Phelan, Louisa Bibb, Priscilla Phelan, Bettie Bell, Ida E. Rice, Sallie Baldwin, Annie Goldthwaite.

CHAPTER IX.

As seems to be the case in all similar organizations, there has been for many years much discussion as to who first originated the idea of Memorial Day. This is still a mooted question. For many years friends claimed the honor for Mrs. Mary Anne Williams, who wrote the beautiful letter from Columbus, Ga., March 12th, 1866, quoted in full on a preceding page.

Later it was held by some that Mrs. Lizzie Rutherford Ellis, also of Columbus, Ga., originated the idea. Finally the friends of both thoroughly investigated the subject; affidavits by ladies who were co-laborers with these two patriotic women were sworn out, and the results published, giving the credit to Mrs. Lizzie Rutherford Ellis for the origin of the suggestion, but acknowledging the great services of Mrs. Williams, the author of the letter.

In 1898, on the 26th of April, there was a grand celebration of the origin of Memorial Day in Columbus, Ga. During that time the Memorial Association of that city took occasion to settle authoritatively the question. The whole occasion was made one of unusual interest. Mr. Henry R. Goetchius was orator of the day, and all the military participated with great pomp and ceremony, while part of the program consisted of the reading of the history of Memorial Day. The following on the subject is taken from the Columbus Enquirer-Sun of April 27th, 1898:

"A HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF MEMORIAL DAY.

(Presented to the Lizzie Rutherford Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy by the Ladies' Memorial Association of Columbus, Ga.)

"Resolved by the Ladies of the Memorial Association of Columbus, Ga., That the following statement, together with the affidavits of Mrs. William G. Woolfolk, Mrs. Clara M. Dexter and Mrs. Jane E. Martin, is a true account of the origin of Memorial Day as first originated in this city.

Resolved further, That this resolution and said statement and affidavits be recorded upon the minutes of this Association as a record thereof.

Adopted.

JANE E. MARTIN, Secretary.

April 25th, 1898.

A. L. GARRARD,
President.

"Inasmuch as the Columbus Chapter of Daughters of the Confederacy have chosen this day for the naming of their Chapter, 'Lizzie Rutherford,' we, the Memorial Association of Columbus, wish not only to keep alive the memory of one of our purest, most unselfish, devoted Confederate women, but to make this Memorial Day for all time among us a double Memorial Day. We pause in tearful tenderness to read the simple inscription of her headstone, in Howard lot, at Linwood cemetery in this city:

"The Soldier's Friend
Lizzie Rutherford Ellis.
She hath done what she could.—Mark xiv. 8.
A loving tribute to our co-worker,
Mrs. Lizzie Rutherford Ellis.
In her patriotic heart sprang the thought of our
Memorial Day.'

"In the same lot, only a few feet away, on the head-stone of Mrs. Chas. J. Williams, we pause again to read:

'Mrs. Charles J. Williams.
In loving recognition of her memorial work,
by her co-workers.'

"The history of Memorial Day has become a prominent feature of the history of the South, and before all shall have passed away of the little band who organized it, we have endeavored to get the facts before they become tradition. The affidavits of Mrs.

Wm. G. Woolfolk, Mrs. C. M. Dexter and Mrs. Jane E. Ware-Martin have been obtained and are hereto attached, and from them and a copy of the original letter of Mrs. Mary Anne Williams, and a letter from Mrs. Mary R. Jones, we learn that in January, 1866, Mrs. Jane Martin was visiting Columbus. One afternoon Miss Lizzie Rutherford called and asked her to accompany her to the cemetery—now Linnwood Cemetery—to join some other ladies in looking after the graves of the soldiers who had died in Columbus hospitals, and been buried under the direction of the Aid Society; that they went and assisted the ladies, and returning to Columbus alone, were discussing the work they had been doing. Miss Lizzie Rutherford remarked she had been reading the "Initials" and thought the idea of setting apart a special day for decorating the graves such a beautiful one, that it occurred to her it would be a good idea for the Aid Society to organize as a society for the purpose of adopting a custom of this kind, and set apart a particular day for decorating and caring for the soldiers' graves. Meeting Mrs. John A. Jones, Mrs. Martin suggested to Miss Rutherford to speak to her about it, as she was a member of the Aid Society, which she did. Mrs. Jones concurred with her, and suggested that she speak to Mrs. Robert Carter, President of the Aid Society. Miss Rutherford stated that as Secretary of the Aid Society she had to call a meeting of the Society for the purpose of disposing of certain personal property belonging to the Society, and thought that it would be the best time to bring the matter up. The meeting was subsequently called and met at Mrs. John Tyler's (now corner Fourth avenue and Fourteenth street, in this city). The ladies present Mrs. Robt. Carter, Mrs. R. A. Ware, Mrs. William Woolfolk, Mrs. Clara M. Dexter, Mrs. J. M. McAlister and Mrs. Charles J. Williams. Miss Lizzie Rutherford was not present at the meeting, as she was suddenly called to Montgomery to the bedside of a dying relative. Her resolution was offered by one of her friends and unanimously adopted, and the Ladies' Memorial Association was organized. The officers elected were Mrs. Robert Carter, President; Mrs. Robert A. Ware, Vice President; Mrs. J. M. McAlister, Second Vice President; Mrs. M. A. Patterson, Treasurer; Mrs. Charles J. Williams, Secretary. No day was determined on at the meeting, but after Miss Lizzie Rutherford

returned to Columbus, when she and other members were working at the cemetery and discussing the best day, she suggested April 26th, which was adopted; and Mrs. Williams, as Secretary, was requested to write to the different Societies throughout the South, asking them to unite in making it a universal custom. Her beautiful letter speaks for itself. How well the work was done has been attested each year. We hope that every Southern woman will teach the young of the South not only to reverence the memory of the soldiers who have died for us, but we especially beg the women of Columbus to instill into the hearts of their children reverence for the soldier and reverence for the women of the Memorial Association who inaugurated this beautiful custom.

The Aid Society, sometimes called the Soldiers' Friend Society, referred to in this statement, was an organization composed of the ladies of Columbus, and it was organized in 1861, for the purpose of caring for the sick and wounded soldiers during the war. Its first President was Mrs. Absalom H. Chappell,* and she having resigned, Mrs. Robert Carter was selected

*The Columbus Enquirer-Sun heads this article with a picture of Mrs. Absalom Harris Chappell, the first President of the first Soldiers' Aid Society in Columbus, which became the celebrated Memorial Day Association of the South. Mrs. Absalom H. Chappell was a sister of General Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic of Texas, and aunt of L. Q. C. Lamar of Mississippi. In 1842 she married Absalom Harris Chappell, who, to quote history, was "an eminent statesman and lawyer of Georgia, a ripe scholar, polished writer and matchless orator." Hon. Absalom H. Chappell was the great uncle of Mr. Chappell Cory, of this city. At the present moment, when Mary Johnston's novel, "Audrey," is so absorbing the public, it is interesting locally to note that Thomas Chappell, the ancestor of this family in America, owned large tracts of land as early as 1634 on the James River, directly opposite the historic Westover, where, in 1737, Colonel William Byrd built the present Westover mansion, the home of the beautiful sad-fated Evelyn Byrd. At the famous Merchants' Hope Church, which still stands to-day on Chappell's Creek as it stood a century and a half ago, rich yet with the gifts of good Queen Anne, the descendants of Thomas Chappell worshiped for seventy-one years before the Byrds built Westover. The fact that Mrs. Frank P. Glass of this city is a descendant of Colonel W. Byrd is of further local interest. Though that which brings us nearer yet to this historic spot is that Capt. Wm. M. Selden, of the State Agricultural Department, was born in Westover Man-

President. At the close of the war between the States the Aid Society, having no further duties to perform (Mrs. Carter still being President and Miss Lizzie Rutherford Secretary), was merged into the Memorial Association of Columbus, and this took place at the meeting called at the residence of Mrs. Tyler, in 1866, as referred to in the foregoing statement. The ladies present at the meeting were members of the Aid Society, and they, with the other members of the Aid Society, constituted the first memorial Association of Columbus."

Attached to this were the affidavits of Mrs. Jane E. Ware-Martin, Mrs. William G. Woolfolk and Mrs. Clara M. Dexter, stating substantially what was contained in the above statement. The two ladies so closely connected with the origin of this day lie almost side by side. They died within two years of each other, Mrs. Ellis preceding Mrs. Williams to that beautiful land where honors matter not, save the stars in the crowns of the righteous. Since the chronicling of the above from the Columbus Enquirer-Sun, the Lizzie Rutherford Chapter has placed a beautiful marble slab and urn to the memory of Mrs. Ellis. The unveiling of this memorial was a most impressive and important event, taking place during the annual session of the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Georgia, in October, 1901.

Three years ago the Memorial Associations of the South

sion, his father having owned the place for fifty years, as well as large tracts of land on the south side of the James River, along Chappell's Creek. At this time, too, when the demon of doubt would argue us out of our belief in the greatest dramatist of the world, the knowledge that Richard Quiney, who owned the land on which Merchants' Hope Church now stands, was a brother of Thomas Quiney of London, who in 1616 married Judith, youngest daughter of William Shakespeare, dispels somewhat the mists and makes the great poet seem very real and very near. After all, the world is not so old, nor yet so wide!—[Vide History of Chappell and Dickie families, by Phil E. Chappell.]

confederated and meet now annually at the Confederate Reunions. Two years ago, at the Memphis Reunion, Bishop Gailor, in his Memorial Address to the Associations there assembled, claimed the honor of the origin of Memorial Day for Miss Sue Adams, of Jackson, Miss. He said, in part :

"The Confederate Southern Memorial Association is the oldest and the most sacred society of women that has been organized since the Civil War. To it we owe the institution of Memorial Day, which is now recognized throughout this country. It was a Southern woman, Miss Sue Adams, who, in the city of Jackson, Miss., on April 26, 1865, almost immediately after the surrender of General Lee, first decorated the graves of the fallen soldiers, and to her eternal honor, be it said, she placed the wreaths upon the graves of friend and foe alike, and this was the first time that Federal graves in a Southern State received a floral offering and that offering of tender sympathy came from a Southern woman. Three years after that, May 30, 1868, General Logan's order made the day perpetual, but the earlier and more beautiful incident should never be forgotten."

At the same reunion, Samuel E. Lewis, not knowing of Bishop Gailor's reference to Miss Sue Adams, of Mississippi, wrote the following letter on the subject to the Memphis Commercial-Appeal :

There have been so many statements of late by prominent persons regarding the origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, that fail somewhat in historic accuracy, that I am prompted in friendly spirit to make mention of what is said to have been the origin of that day in the South; but before so doing, beg leave to refer to the following :

At the unveiling ceremonies of the Logan statue, April 9, 1901, Senator Depew said in his address: "Long after the leaders of the civil strife on either side are forgotten, Logan's memory will remain green because of the beautiful memorial service which he originated, and which now in every part of our reunited land sets aside one day in the year as a national hol-

iday in order that the graves of the gallant dead, both on the Federal and Confederate side may be decorated with flowers. It is no longer confined to the soldiers of the Civil War, but continued to those of our latest struggle. The ceremony will exist and be actively participated in while posterity remains proud of heroic ancestors and of their achievements, and our country venerates the patriotism and the courage of those who died for its preservation or its honor."

And in the recent order of Commander Israel W. Stone of the Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., he says: "Thirty-three years ago the beautiful ceremony of strewing flowers and holding solemn services over the graves of our departed comrades was first ordered by that peerless General, John A. Logan, then Commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic."

And in the Evening Star of the 18th inst., appears the following quotation from Commander Stone's order of the 17th: "Memorial Day is an institution of the Grand Army of the Republic. The consecration of the 30th of May as a national day, dedicated to the offering of loving tribute to the memory of the devoted men who gave their lives to their country, was obtained by and accorded to the Grand Army of the Republic, I feel that other military organizations should not, by separate services, detract from the magnitude and impressiveness of the ceremonies of the Grand Army of the Republic on this day."

The above are fair examples of the statements to which I have referred.

In behalf of the ladies of the South, and especially of the Lizzie Rutherford Chapter, Columbus, Ga., I beg leave to submit the following statement from page 17 of a volume entitled "Memorial Day," being a history of the origin of "Memorial Day," printed in Columbus, Ga., 1898, and which is to be found in the Library of Congress.

It contains the affidavits of Mrs. Wm. G. Woolfolk, Mrs. C. M. Dexter and Mrs. Jane E. Ware Martin, which are confirmatory of the following extract from said page 17:

"In January, 1866, Mrs. Jane Martin was visiting Columbus, Ga. One afternoon Miss Lizzie Rutherford called and asked her to accompany her to the cemetery, now Linnwood cemetery, to join some other ladies in looking after the graves of the soldiers who had died in Columbus hospitals and been buried

under the direction of the (Soldiers') Aid Society; that they went and assisted the ladies, and returning to Columbus alone, were discussing the work they had been doing, Miss Lizzie Rutherford remarked, she had been reading the 'Initials,' (By the Baroness Tautphoeus—chapter describing custom of Roman Catholics (Germany) in decorating the graves of the dead on All Saints' Day), and thought the idea of setting apart a special day for decorating the graves such a beautiful one, that it occurred to her it would be a good idea for the Aid Society to organize as a society for the purpose of adopting a custom of this kind and set apart a particular day for decorating and caring for the soldiers' graves. Meeting Mrs. John A. Jones, Mrs. Martin suggested to Miss Rutherford to speak to her about it, as she was a member of the Aid Society, which she did, and from this the Aid Society converted into the 'Ladies' Memorial Association,' and the anniversary of the surrender of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, April 26, was chosen as the day for holding the memorial services annually, and the other societies in the South were requested to unite in making it a universal custom."

In the orations and after-dinner speeches of Chauncey M. Depew; Cassell Publishing Company, New York (Copyrighted, 1890); Chapter VIII: "Oration at the Academy of Music, New York, on Decoration Day, May 30, 1879," see page 137, I find the following:

"When the war was over in the South, where, under warmer skies and with more poetic temperaments, symbols and emblems are better understood than in the practical North, the widows, mothers, and children of the Confederate dead went out and strewed their graves with flowers; at many places the women scattered them impartially also over the unknown and unmarked resting places of the Union soldiers. As the news of this touching tribute flashed over the North, it roused, as nothing else could have done, national amity and love, and allayed sectional animosity and passion."

The foregoing references as to the Gen. Logan claims, and the Lizzie Rutherford claims, are submitted in friendly way as historical data, in no wise intended to detract from the credit due Gen. Logan in inaugurating the day in the Grand Army of the Republic in 1868; but giving proper credit to Miss Lizzie

Rutherford for the conception of the idea in January, 1866, prompted by the reading of the German story referred to.

It is hoped that this communication will be accepted in the friendly spirit in which it is written, and that it may bring out other historical data regarding the care of soldiers dead, the world over.

SAMUEL E. LEWIS,
Commander Camp No. 1191 U. C. V.,
District of Columbia.

Thus it will be seen that after the public had fully satisfied itself that Miss Lizzie Rutherford was the originator of the beautiful memorial idea, in January, 1866, Bishop Gailor forever shatters our idols by showing that Miss Sue Adams, of Jackson, Miss., inaugurated the custom by placing on the graves of friend and foe the wreaths and flowers of spring on April 26th, 1865. From all the data in hand it would seem that the sublime act of Miss Adams in Mississippi was what first attracted the attention of the North and suggested their Decoration Day. Further South the custom seems to have sprung from the All Souls' Day idea suggested by "Initials" to Miss Lizzie Rutherford. It all tends to prove a great truth which is sometimes unwittingly passed over or forgotten: that the same beautiful thought may oftentimes lie deep in many a crystal well-spring.

Be this as it may, the facts so far as Montgomery's Memorial Association is concerned, are:

First. There was formed in Montgomery a Monumental and Historical Association as early as November, 1865, for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the Confederate Dead.

Second. That the letter of the ladies of Winchester, Virginia, was the first to arouse Montgomery women's interest in the proper burial of Alabama soldiers, the first ladies taking upon themselves the burden of col-

lecting money for the purpose being Mrs. McGehee and Miss Goldthwaite (Mrs. Seibles), through whose instrumentality several hundred dollars were sent to Col. Roy, State Agent, at Selma, more than a month before the Memorial Association was formed. That the letter from Virginia also awakened new interest in the Monumental and Historical Association and caused to be formed its active Executive Committee, which soon took steps towards the proper burial of Alabama Dead and the proper care of graves in our own cemetery.

Third. That the letter of Mrs. Mary Anne Williams, embodying the memorial idea of Mrs. Lizzie Rutherford Ellis, written on the 12th of March, 1866, was the first to arouse the active energies of the suffering and patriotic women of Montgomery, who, on April 16th, 1866, answered the appeal of Judge Phelan, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Monumental and Historical Association, and formed the Memorial Association of Montgomery, Ala.

Yet, when all is summed up and "honor to whom honor is due" shall be given to all those directly instrumental in forming this historic Association in Montgomery, there is one name which should receive especial and particular mention. He was the first Recording Secretary of the Monumental and Historical Association, taking soon after the double duty of Corresponding Secretary, as well. He it was who wrote, daily, strong editorials, news notes and appeals, calling on Alabama to do her full duty. From November, 1865, until the monument and headboards were completed, his clarion notes resounded appealing to the ladies and battling for them in brave and manly fashion. The name of this brave soldier is Col. Joseph Hodgson, who, as the Secretary and Corresponding Secretary of the Monumental

and Historical Society and Secretary of its Executive Committee, was naturally personally interested and actively alert to every passing chance for promoting its objects. In 1868, at the exercises on the 26th of April—the third Memorial Day of the South and the first since the completion of the cemetery monument and the marking of the soldiers' graves with headboards—Col. Hodgson was called on and made some prophetic and beautiful remarks to the Memorial Association and citizens there assembled.

The following is the notice of the proceedings in part, taken from the Mail of April 27th, 1868:

"MEMORIAL DAY.

"Pursuant to notice to that effect, a large number of our citizens of both sexes met at the Capitol grounds yesterday at 4 p. m. and proceeded thence to the cemetery reserved for the Confederate dead. A large number of others had already collected at the same point. Under the superintendence of Rev. Dr. Cox, the Ladies' Memorial Association had put the grounds in thorough order. The walks and graves were relieved of all vestige of weeds. Neat headboards had been erected throughout the cemetery, and a handsome little room in the center in which to preserve a list of the names of the dead. A handsome monument had also been erected, which measured twenty feet from the base of the mound upon which it rested to the top of the urn which surmounts it. It was one of the neatest and most appropriate monuments we ever saw, reflecting much credit upon the Association.

"Before decorating the graves with choicest flowers of spring, a band of girls stood near the monument and sang a most appropriate hymn. The scene was most beautiful and affecting, worthy the memory of the heroes who slept in death around them. Before the hymn was sung, Col. J. Hodgson, by request, made a few remarks pertinent to the occasion. He thanked the ladies, on behalf of the survivors of the war, for the pious memorials offered in remembrance of their departed brothers. He recalled the scenes through which they had

passed, etc. He extolled their valor. He hoped that the day would yet dawn when a monument more imposing than this may be erected to the patriots of the war for the Constitution and look down upon a grateful and happy people from Capitol Hill. That time he believed would as surely come as the day when the victors will see that these graves cover the remains of the victims who died for justice and freedom."

But before closing these pages there is one point in connection with this Association worthy of more than passing notice. The Ladies' Memorial Association of Montgomery differed in one respect from all other associations of its kind. In addition to the ceremonies of the 26th at the cemetery, it held each year, on the first day of May, the May Day Offering at the theatre.

The Secretary's report of 1876 chronicles this interesting fact in connection with this custom:

"On motion of the President, it was decided to do away with the May Day Offering heretofore given the first of May at the theatre to raise funds for the Association."

Thus it will be seen that for ten long years, through that most trying reconstruction period of poverty and humiliation, this original custom was preserved. Unique and alone, this of itself is one of the most marvelous of all records of that unflagging industry and devotion so many a time written on the spotless page of Southern womanhood.

Yet all the shining deeds of this historic Association, from its formation on that brilliant April morning in the dark past down to the bright to-day, make a luminous pathway by the river of Death. May coming generations, in treading the "path their mothers trod," find it ever and always a primrose way by the river of Life.

THE END.





